

Killings-1935

Alabama Terror Victims Tell Of Murdered Share-Croppers

Delegation to Fight for Southern Farmers' Rights

By BETH McHENRY

"JIM was jest walkin' past my brother-in-law's shack, an' the landlords shot him dead!"

Annie May Merriweather, wife of the murdered strike leader, Jim Press Merriweather, told her story to the press in New York the other day, in an interview at the office of the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners.

She and two other sharecroppers, Henry Roberts and Wesley Smith, have come up out of Lowndes County, Alabama, to arouse protest against the terror used against the poor farmers in Alabama. Thomas Burke, assistant secretary of the Share Croppers' Union, accompanied the delegation to New York.

Mrs. Merriweather told of how she had been beaten and "strung up" to the rafters by a rope. After she had lapsed into unconsciousness she was cut down. Each member of the delegation has been victimized by the terror gang, which is made up of landlords, deputy sheriffs and hired thugs.

Asked how many strikers were dead to date, since the Cotton Pickers' Strike was called on August 19th, Burke said that seven dead were known to the union, but that many Negro farmers missing since the terror broke out have not returned to their homes. Many of these are believed to be dead. He also said that Deputy Sheriff Addis Moseley, of Montgomery County, had openly boasted that the "landlords had got 15."

Describes Terror

Mrs. Merriweather described the terror in Lowndes County:

"It opened up right after the union calls the strike. That was August 19th. Willie Witcher was the first one they shot down. After shootin' him, they puts him in jail for 27 days—beatin' and terrorizin' him all the while.

"Then it warn't but a couple of days before they starts roundin' up

the rest of us. Huntin' Jim an' me both, day an' night. An' when they gets to where I was, at my brother-in-law's shack, they wus 25 or 30 an' armed with guns. They stripped me an' beat me with a rope doubled four times . . . an' they struck my sister-in-law . . . an' then they hung me to the rafters. An' when Jim comes by there, lookin' for me, they shoots him down without givin' him no warnin'."

Hid in Swamps

Henry Roberts, 28-year-old sharecropper, told of his long hours in the cotton fields since he was "five years old." He said in all his years of work he had never earned more than fifty cents a day. He described how the landlords had come looking for him, and how he had been forced, with the other militant strikers, to hide in the swamps for days at a time.

"They got Ed Bracey on Labor Day," Roberts related. "Bracey was a leader too. An' they calls out to him to come out, his day wus come. He tried to run out the back door when they come in the front an' they mowed him down. They wus nineteen bullets in Ed Bracey when we looks at his body after ward."

Purpose of Delegation

Thomas Burke explained the purpose of the delegation: to fight for the constitutional rights of Alabama

farmers, and to force an end to this brutal reign of terror which has been unequalled in Southern history. The Share Croppers' Union he explained, was fighting for the most basic rights. Their demands in the recent strike were for \$1 a day for ten hours of cotton picking in the hot sun; \$1 a hundred pounds on those plantations where they pick by weight, and 20 cents an hour for a forty hour week for relief workers, who have been getting in the neighborhood of \$1.50 a week for sixty hours.

The delegation will remain a short time in New York. There will be mass meetings to arouse support for the Share Croppers' Union in their fight against the terror in Alabama. The delegation will then go to Washington to demand of Presi-

dent Roosevelt and Secretary Perkins the assurance that the farmers will be protected by the government against further terror.



A family of Negro sharecroppers before their shack.

**DEPUTIES IN
ALABAMA KILL
ONE; SHOOT 2**

Revolt Against Starvation

Wages Causes Trouble

HAYNEVILLE, Ala., Aug. 30.—Revolting at 40 cents a day for 100 pounds of the slavery price paid for picking cotton under a steamrolling sun, scores of Race farm workers left the fields of snowy state, in

strike this week that threw Lowndes county plantations into an uproar. A brazen effrontery never before heard of from simple black folk here.

Scowling deputy sheriffs, flanked by baying bloodhounds, swarmed to the scene, arrested one Race man, cuffed him about and then shot him to death when he allegedly attempted to bolt to freedom.

Two other Race workers were wounded, at least one seriously, in the circumstances leading to the disorder.

Branded As Communists

Jim Press Merriweather is dead. His body was riddled in a hail of lead from deputies' revolvers. They said he was a Communist and had incited the humble workers to put down their cotton picking sacks and grow sassy to the white folk.

But Communist or not, Jim will not again feel the pangs of hunger, absorb the abuse of "white bosses"

every time he fails to remove his battered cap in their presence with an alacrity that belied his innermost feelings.

Police sought to establish the fact that Meriweather was working in a league with some whites affiliated with the Red organization who flooded the countryside with "inflammatory" literature, but were able to show only that his efforts were to urge ragged, abused, half starved Race farm hands to seek a pay increase from 40 cents to one dollar a day for common labor, and increase of cotton picking wages of from 50 cents to one dollar a hundred pounds.

Sheriff Bob Woodruff's accusation that Meriweather fired from ambush and wounded a Race woman working on the Bates plantation when the woman refused to strike, was regarded as an attempt to whitewash the slaying and block any move for an investigation.

Meriweather was captured by a posse near Sandy Ridge, the sheriff said, and while being returned to the highway along a country road suddenly broke from the posse and leaped into a ditch in an effort to escape the wrath of the armed men. The man, he said, hid under a gun in the ditch at this point, but no gun was found. The posse crowded down the man and his body was riddled with bullets from the four men who had taken him in custody.

Meanwhile, the hunt for a Race man named Roper also used of having fired from ambush, wounding Jim Lassick, employee on the Robert Kerlong place, was being continued. Lassick was shot while picking peas but other farmers near here hesitate to accept the story that he was wounded by Communist organizers who warned him that he would be killed if he went into the fields to work.

The sheriff said that insofar as he knew, complete order had been restored in the county but was silent on the question of what kind of justice would be meted out to the Meriweather slayers.

Those on the N. J. Bell plantation, it was reported, had been threatened with death by the "organizers" if they resumed cotton picking, but the plantation workers admitted they had been forced to say they had been threatened.

They insist they want \$1 a hundred for picking cotton in lieu of the 40 cents a 100 being paid in Lowndes county.

Only one arrest has been made, the sheriff announced. The prisoner is Willie Witcher, who was taken into custody on the Bell plantation on a charge of resisting an officer.

Killings - 1935

Alabama

Negro Cropper Murdered On Alabama Prison Farm

News of Death of Alf White, Hero of Reeltown, Follows Announcement of Killing of Wadkins, As Terror Continues in Cotton Belt

Alf White, one of the Negro heroes of the Battle of Reeltown, Ala., in December 1932, when Negro croppers courageously defended themselves against an armed attack by deputies, has been foully murdered on an Alabama prison farm, the national office of the International Labor Defense charged yesterday.

News of White's death, received in New York Saturday, followed on the heels of the announcement by Sheriff L. N. Autrey of Butler County, Ala., of the finding of a bullet-riddled body to be that of Smith Wadkins, Negro cropper and a leader of the share-croppers Union in Southern Alabama.

The death of Alf White, at Atmore Prison Farm, Alabama, has all the earmarks of a deliberate murder, officials of the I.L.D. declared yesterday. The death came to light with the receipt of a letter by the I.L.D. from White's wife, Mrs. Sallie White, of Notasulga, Ala. White was one of the five Negroes sentenced to long prison terms after the Battle of Reeltown. The four other croppers are still in jail.

That White came to his death by "accidentally falling into a well," is the strange contention made by C. S. Kelly, warden of the prison farm. The body was immediately buried by the prison authorities without permitting relatives of the dead worker to see the body. R. W. Brooks, notary public and ex-officio Justice of the Peace, obligingly signed a document for Warden Kelly, stating that in his opinion it was not necessary for a coroner's jury to render a verdict in the case.

Wife Notified After Burial

Mrs. White was notified of her husband's death and hasty burial in a letter from Warden Kelly, which is characterized by the I.L.D. as "a model of unfeeling coldness—wounded by the gunfire of deputies and evasion." The letter, dated Sept. 22, is addressed to "Sallie White, colored," and opens without salutation, since the Southern ruling class code of manners does not permit the use of such appellations as "Mrs." or "Madam" when addressing other croppers.

James died in prison a few days after his arrest. During the trial of the croppers at Dadeville, Ala., Dr. Eugene Dibble, who had treated James at Tuskegee, testified that when he examined James he found only one bullet in his body. After James died in jail, examination revealed two bullets. The second could only have been inflicted in prison.

Terror Still Continues

The terror against the members of the Sharecroppers' Union dramatically expressed in the Battle of Reeltown, has never subsided. Wadkins, whose bullet-riddled body is reported to have been found in a swamp just across the Lowndes County line in Butler County, was a militant leader of the union.

Sheriff Autrey of Butler County said an "investigation" had been completed, but that no clues had been found as to the murderers of Wadkins.

Willie Foster, Negro Communist leader of Birmingham, was also murdered when he went to Selma Ala., to investigate the disappearance of Robert Washington, Negro I. L. D. leader who had gone to Selma to extend all possible aid to the arrested strikers. Nothing has been heard of Washington, since he was released from Selma prison into the arms of a waiting band of Vigilantes.

Negro Sought in Shooting Of Italian At Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Oct. 29—(P)—An unidentified negro was sought by police today in the unexplained shooting of Sam Pilato, 65-year-old Italian grocer, as he stood in the door of his store.

Pilato was described as in serious condition today. None of the Pilato family could explain why the negro shot the elderly grocer, who said so far as he knew he had never seen his assailant. Mrs. Pilato said there was no exchange of words between her husband and the negro before the single shot which struck Pilato in the chest was fired.

Doomed Negro's Appeal Postpones His Execution

Filing of an appeal to the Alabama Supreme Court in the case of Ed Lee Summerville, Pickens County negro, convicted of the murder of Deputy Sheriff B. C. Johnson, and sentenced to death, has automatically suspended execution of the death sentence which was set for next Friday, until the appeal has been acted on by the high court.

ing ordered to take place on Oct. 11. On Oct. 2, however, he was granted a reprieve by Gov. Graves until Nov. 8. Notice of appeal and suspension of sentence in the case, temporarily, was received from the Supreme Court yesterday at the executive department.

Elmore County Deputy Shot By Negro At Still

Bloodhounds were sent from Kilby Prison late last night to Red Land, Elmore County, to aid a posse of seven or eight men in apprehending an unidentified negro who shot and wounded Deputy Sheriff Herbert Richardson as he and Marshal Willie Carlton attempted to seize him for operating a still.

The deputy was sprinkled with bird-shot and his skin badly lacerated. His condition, however, was not regarded as serious. As soon as the shooting was reported at Wetumpka a posse went in search of the negro.

The officers were reported to have returned the negro's fire and it was believed that he may have been wounded.

Elmore Deputy Sheriff Is Wounded By Negro

WETUMPKA, ALA., Nov. 19—(Special)—Deputy Sheriff Hubert Richardson, of Elmore County, was wounded, not seriously, last night during a raid on a liquor still in the Redland community section. Leon Colquitt, negro, is held in the Wetumpka jail, accused in the shooting.

Deputy Richardson and Marshal Will Carleton attempted to seize Colquitt and three other negroes at the still, officers said, when the negro fired on Richardson with a shotgun, dropped the weapon and fled. Track dogs from Kilby followed the negro to his home. Officers arrested him and said he confessed to the shooting, operating the still, and implicated three other negroes, all of whom were arrested.

The deputy sheriff received a number of shot in the abdomen and legs but was reported not critically injured.

Negro On Trial In Barbour Slaying

12-4-35
EUFULA, ALA., Dec. 3. — (P) — The dying statement of Will C. Britt naming Nathan Beauchamp, negro, as his slayer, was introduced in evidence today as the negro faced a Barbour County jury on charges of murder.

The negro with 25 special officers on guard to preserve order went to trial today for the slaying of Britt, a filling station operator, on the highway on Oct. 19. There was no disorder attending the trial, but spectators were searched on entering the courtroom.

The statement was introduced through the testimony of Dr. W. A. Britt, who attended the man after he had been wounded. The physician testified a few minutes before Will C. Britt died, he had named Beauchamp as his slayer.

Medical experts testified that Britt had three bullet wounds in his chest. The negro, they testified, was wounded three times, one bullet penetrating the chest; another the shoulder, and a third the right arm.

J. H. Gordon, witness to the shooting, told the jury the shooting occurred so quickly that he could not tell whether Britt or the negro fired first.

The State rested late today, and all the evidence was expected to be completed before noon tomorrow.

The physician who attended Beauchamp at Kilby Prison, Montgomery, for safe-keeping when threats were heard here after the shooting, has been summoned to testify.

9 Post Bonds In St. Clair Slaying

PELL CITY, ALA., Dec. 7. — (P) — Nine men indicted this week on charges of murder in the slaying of a union miner during disorders in St. Clair County coal fields posted bond of \$5,000 each this afternoon and were released.

The men were, Charles Shepherd, superintendent of the Acmar mine of the Alabama Fuel and Iron Company, E. R. Bell, general manager of the company, H. C. Glawright, James Coupland, Garfield Hammock, John Rich, Bob Ferguson, and C. C. Garrison.

The men were charged with slaying Virgil Thomas, member of a union motor caravan advancing on the Acmar mine "to organize it." Thomas was killed near White's Chapel where a group of men halted the caravan.

Judge Alto V. Lee, presiding, said date for the trials would not be set until after Jan. 1, when he and the senior judge of the circuit confer on the matter.

The grand jury which indicted the nine men returned another true bill today naming nine union miners of Jefferson County on charges of conspiracy and unlawful assembly. The grand jury, third to sit here and investigate the disorders, had returned the indictments charging murder in a partial report made Thursday.

Whether the indictments here will stand was a moot question in legal circles as the grand jury was drawn to sit in the northern judicial division of the county and was convened here at its own request Monday.

Governor Calls St. Clair Court To Sift Shooting

Advertiser
Action Follows Appeal By
Attorney General After
One Indictment In Death

New Grand Jury

11-8-35
Labor Department Sends
McGrady Here, Reports
2 Sides Will Arbitrate

PELL CITY, ALA., Nov. 7. — (P) — John Rich, miner employed by the Alabama Fuel and Iron Company, was arrested late today on an indictment charging second degree murder. The indictment was returned by the special session of the St. Clair County Grand Jury which investigated the slaying of Virgil Thomas, union miner, in a clash between union and non-union miners near Acmar, Oct. 28.

Nine men were charged with murder by a coroner's jury which investigated the shooting, but Rich was the only one indicted by the Grand Jury. The name of the man indicted was not revealed until the arrest. Chief Deputy Sheriff G. R. Lovell said Rich was released under \$3,000 bond, after his arrest.

On recommendation of Atty. Gen. Carmichael submitted immediately upon his return from Pell City, Gov. Graves yesterday afternoon requested Judge Alto V. Lee, of Gadsden, to convene the St. Clair Circuit Court in special session for the purpose of investigating the recent fatal shooting of one union miner and the wounding of seven others, which occurred in the mining section of St. Clair County.

The special session, the Governor said, will necessitate the impanelling of a new grand jury. Setting of a date for the session to convene is a matter for Judge Lee, in the exercise of his discretion, to determine, it was pointed out. Asked if he did not mean the new grand jury would reinvestigate the shootings, in view of the returning of one indictment during the special grand jury session at Pell City this week, Gov. Graves recalled the word he used as "investigate."

Yesterday afternoon, the chief execu-

tive held two separate conferences with Atty. Gen. Carmichael and Asst. Atty. Gen. C. L. Rowe who was assigned to the St. Clair case by Mr. Carmichael, and who was in attendance during the inquiry by the county grand jury this week into the shooting and mortal wounding of Virgil Thomas, union miner, while he and a number of other men accompanying him were making an "organizing" trip into St. Clair and were approaching the county's coal mining section.

Indicted One Unnamed
No announcement has yet been made of the name of the person indicted at the recent grand jury session, on a charge of second degree murder in connection with the shootings which occurred on October 28, after the general strike of union coal miners in Alabama had been in effect for about a month, with mine operators offering to renew last year's contracts and miners demanding wage increases.

The grand jury session that has just adjourned, was called at the request of Gov. Graves, made immediately after he had been informed while he was in Washington on official business, of the St. Clair clash. With that request went another that a complete and thorough investigation be made of the affair so as to "get to the bottom" of it.

Atty. Gen. Carmichael, who directed the investigation by the grand jury that has just been discharged by Judge Lee, expressed disappointment at Pell City Wednesday night at the action of that body which returned but one indictment.

E. F. McGrady Here
Meanwhile Edward F. McGrady, first assistant U. S. Secretary of labor, said here yesterday that mine operators and members of the United Mine Workers of America had agreed to reopen conferences looking toward settlement of Alabama's two-month-old coal strike.

"Both sides have agreed to reopen," McGrady said, "and the operators' negotiations committee has a meeting scheduled tomorrow (Friday) at which time a conference date possibly will be set."

McGrady, considered the Labor Department's ace trouble-shooter, dictated his statement to newspapermen after a conference with Gov. Graves and John R. Steelman, Department of Labor commissioner of conciliation.

The Governor did not comment on the conference and McGrady said he merely "reported" to the chief executive on developments in the coal fields "in a general way, telling him what I had found during my recent investigation there."

Warns Both Sides
Referring to his conference with Birmingham operators and miners, McGrady said that he advised both sides "they'd never get anywhere by adjourning wage conferences and staying home."

The assistant secretary said he would leave Montgomery at 11 p.m. via train for New Orleans to investigate the strike of the International Longshoremen's Association at ports along the Gulf of Mexico.

11-8-35
After a 24-hour stay in New Orleans, McGrady said he expected to return to Birmingham "to be available in the event I can be of any assistance in settling the coal miner strike there."

Steelman, commenting that "as long as they'll sit down and talk things over, there's hope," said he would return to the Birmingham district tonight although

he did not expect to take part in wage conferences unless called upon.

the Negro worker because he was carrying a package. Nollner gave the routine story of "resisting arrest," claiming Rome attacked him with a knife. The police department has made no move to investigate the killing.

Wanted To Give Story
Present with Mr. McDuff when the statement was made in Jefferson County Jail were Detectives Woodie and Virgil Sandefer, and Ben F. Walker, C. E. McCombs, chief deputy sheriff, and A. B. Hale, a white court reporter.

Brown, a 23-year-old youth, has been removed to Jefferson County jail for "safekeeping" after his voice was "recognized" by a white woman, who reported an attempted assault on her on a lonely country road. The woman, Lucille Bailey, and her escort, Gavin Howton, told a mixed-up story of the alleged assault, their only description of their supposed assailant being "the dark form of a Negro." Although in their original stories neither mentioned being addressed by their assailant, they later, under police guidance, "identified" the voice of Brown.

This latest lynch frame-up follows a series of militant labor struggles in Bessemer in which Negro and white workers joined together to fight for better conditions.

M'DUFF SLAYER PLEADS CAUSE

Mulligan Says Sheriff's Son Was Accidently Slain In Attempted Joke
4-2-35

Hubert T. Mulligan was said by the solicitor's office today to have attributed his fatal shooting of Fred H. McDuff Jr. to a "faked argument between the sheriff's son and himself to frighten C. B. Bates, another Frisco Railroad officer."

Robert E. McAdory, assistant solicitor, said he was told by Mulligan that he picked out his revolver in the East Thomas cafe to make the faked argument more effective and the gun accidentally went off—he didn't know how.

Mr. Bates said Saturday he had left the cafe at 1220 Arkadelphia rd to go home before the shooting occurred. Mr. McDuff was wounded at 2:30 a.m. Saturday and died at 4:07 a.m.

Admits Drinking
Mulligan, Mr. McAdory declared, said he had had "10 or 12 drinks" and that Bates was "pretty well loaded."

The assistant solicitor quoted Mulligan as saying that Bates and himself bought a quart of liquor about 11:30 p.m. and had started on a second before they met McDuff.

Mr. McAdory said Mulligan declared he did not remember giving the wounded man a drink while on the way to the hospital, as reported. It was on the way to the hos-

Exclusion Of Negroes From Juries Raised In Murder Trials At Mobile

MOBILE, ALA., June 12.—(AP)—Trials of two negroes on charges of murder today were postponed in Mobile Circuit Court, pending reindictment, when their attorney raised the question of absence of negroes from the jury rolls of the county in demurrers to the indictments.

Miss Rosa Gerhardt raised the question on which death sentences of two of nine negro defendants in the "Scottsboro case" were reversed by the United States Supreme Court, in behalf of R. P. Vaughn and Frank Millhouse, charged with murdering Neil Sarne, a grocer, in a \$10 holdup.

Solicitor Bart E. Chamberlain announced today that instead of arguing the question which he said the United States Supreme Court had settled, he would ask for new indictments from a new Grand Jury next month.

The solicitor said he did not know whether the names of negroes were in the jury box from which the Grand Jury indicted them and the panel from the trial had been drawn, but to avoid delay and expense he would resubmit the cases to the new Grand Jury. The solicitor left the city after the postponement and could not be reached.

Miss Gerhardt said she understood that additional names would be placed in the jury boxes and that some of them would be negroes.

To this members of the jury commission said negroes had never been excluded from the jury rolls in Mobile County and that in some instances they had served on juries here.

The question of negroes being "systematically excluded" from juries in Alabama was raised early in 1933, by Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief of defense counsel, for the nine "Scottsboro defendants" in motions to squash the indictments returned in Jackson County and then to quash the venire drawn in Morgan County under change of venue.

Leibowitz called more than a score of witnesses on each motion to offer evidence that negroes were "systematically excluded solely because of race and color."

It was on this question of alleged violation of constitutional rights, that the appeal to the United States Supreme Court was based. The nation's highest tribunal set aside the death sentences of Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, the two negroes condemned for an alleged attack on Mrs. Victoria Price, of this group.

After the decision, Gov. Bibb Graves wrote circuit judges and solicitors suggesting that if their jury boxes in their courts did not conform to the holding, that they take steps to make them conform. He further suggested that where the issue might be raised, the cases be postponed until the jury rolls conformed.

Legislation now is pending in the State Legislature to limit jury service to qualified voters to reduce the number of negroes eligible to sit on juries.

This was the first case in which the issue had been raised since the decision

on April 1.

Later, H. Austill Pharr, chairman of the Mobile County jury commission, announced that more negroes' names would be included in the jury panel to be re-filled before June 16.

Bloodhounds Tree Slayer Of Negro

Treed last night by bloodhounds after he had been pursued over a 20-mile course for more than six hours, James McIntyre, 21-year-old negro of Sellers Station, surrendered to Sheriff's Deputies Frizzle and Sellers on a charge of slaying Anderson Foster, a negro, over a five-cent debt.

Foster, deputies said, was stabbed to death at Sellers Station early yesterday after he and McIntyre had argued over payment of the small debt. McIntyre fled, and at 2:30 p.m., the deputies began pursuit with a number of bloodhounds obtained from Kilby Prison.

At 8:30 p.m., McIntyre was treed between Ramer and Red Level. The negro clung to a limb on the trunk of a tree until the officers arrived and chained the dogs. McIntyre, the deputies and the dogs were said to have been physically exhausted when the chase ended.

One of the bloodhounds was lost during the man-hunt and officers have requested that they be notified if the animal is found.

Eufaula Man Is Slain By Negro

EUFULA, ALA., Sept. 19.—(Special.)—Will Britt, 40-year-old filling station operator, was shot and fatally wounded here tonight in an altercation with two negroes, but lived long enough to fire six bullets into one of the negroes, Nathan Beauchamp, who was reported dying in a local hospital. The other negro, George Harris, wounded in the arm, was arrested after the affray.

Officers said that Britt, driving his automobile, met the two negroes, also in a car, on a side street near a suburb called Hoboken. The three got out of their cars and argued in the road, and the shooting followed. Britt fell with three bullet wounds in his chest and side and in the exchange of shots he fired six bullets into the Beauchamp negro. The other negro was struck by a stray shot, officers said.

Britt was brought to a hospital here where he died 10 minutes later. The Beauchamp negro was taken to another hospital and it was reported he had little chance to live.

While officers had not completed their investigation, it was indicated that Britt and the negroes were quarrelling over a robbery that occurred Wednesday when Britt's filling station was entered. Offi-

cers believed that Britt accused the two negroes of the robbery.

Britt, a lifelong resident of Eufaula, is survived by his mother, Mrs. John Britt; a brother, Mancil Britt, of Florida, and three sisters, of Birmingham. Funeral plans will be announced.

STATION OPERATOR DIES IN GUN-BATTLE

**Officers Fear No Danger of
"Lynch" Law for Negro**
9-21-35

EUFULA, Ala., Sept. 20.—(AP)

Peace officers said today that they did not believe there was any danger of "lynch law" to Nathan Beauchamp, negro, who was critically wounded in a gun fight that cost the life of Will Britt, filling station operator, last night.

Chief of Police H. L. McCullohs said that feeling against the negro whom Britt shot five times before he died, apparently had subsided and that he did not anticipate any attempt to take the negro from the hospital here.

"As far as I can see," Chief McCullohs said, "everything is pretty quiet, and we don't expect any trouble. There's no high feeling here now."

The guard placed at the hospital last night when a crowd of more than 300 milled around the streets, was retained.

Physicians gave Beauchamp little hope for recovery. He was shot three times through the right lung, once through the shoulder and again through the wrist. His companion, George Harris, negro, was held at the same hospital, his shoulder broken by a stray bullet.

Officials said that Britt probably had accused the negro of participating in the recent robbery of his filling station, thus precipitating the gun fight.

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Alabama

Couple Killed At Fort Deposit In Mystery Slaying John E. Norman And Wife Die In Shotgun Attack Near Home Of Neighbor E. N. Arant Held Power Company Manager Placed In Montgomery Jail Following Tragedy

FORT DEPOSIT, ALA., June 20—Special)—Practically every citizen of Fort Deposit and surrounding country was aroused tonight by the slaying, under mysterious circumstances, of John E. Norman and his wife at the home of E. N. Arant, 35, local manager for the Alabama Power Company. Norman, prominent druggist here, was found dead from gunshot wounds about 9 o'clock tonight just outside the front yard gate of Arant's home. Mrs. Norman, who is a sister of Mrs. Ora Belle Crum, 25 LeBron Avenue, Montgomery, was found at the front door of Arant's home, her lifeless body sprawled across the porch.

Arant, sought vainly for four hours, telephoned to Buck Meadows, former sheriff who was appointed acting deputy last night to investigate the double Norman slaying and he was arrested at 1 a.m. at the home of J. M. Pickens, where he had fled with his wife and three small children.

Arant was rushed to Montgomery by Acting Deputy Meadows and Coroner E. Sheehan. Arant, questioned by an Advertiser reporter at the county jail here at 2 a.m. today, shook hands warmly but declared that he "had no statement to make."

Arant, of small stature and dark complexion, looked toward the floor as he entered the jail and immediately acknowledged introductions to several deputies and the night warden. He stood aside, quietly, until placed in a cell by Warden Ray Guice.

Coroner E. E. Sheehan, of Lowndes County, said that he would sign a warrant today charging Arant with first degree murder.

Coroner Sheehan said that Mrs. Norman was shot at close range and that the entire load of buckshot entered her

abdomen, with some of the shots emerging through the back. Mr. Norman, he said, received 10 shots in the chest and "seven or eight" in the back near the shoulder. Norman, in his opinion, was turned around when struck by the first shot, causing the second to strike him in the back.

Both Coroner Sheehan and Acting Deputy Meadows said that the case was the "most mysterious" that they had worked on in many years. They said they had talked with scores of Fort Deposit citizens and that none knew, or had ever heard of, any difficulties between the two men or members of their families.

Coroner Sheehan said that when he and Meadows arrested Arant the latter seemed to be "under the influence of liquor." The coroner added that he could not say that Arant "was drunk." Mrs. Arant and the three children were permitted to remain at the Pickens home.

It was known here that early today Mr. Arant left this city in company with J. M. Black, local insurance dealer and several other men and that he joined Mr. Norman in Montgomery after which they motored together to Lake Jordan to attend a barbecue given by Dr. Fitts Hill, of Montgomery. They reached here about 6 p.m.

Both Good Friends

Norman and Arant spent the afternoon at the lake and apparently were the best of friends. They returned to Montgomery in Mr. Black's car. Arant, H. R. Ellis, J. E. Bates, Ralph Norman and Black then drove here together, Norman following in his machine which had been parked in Montgomery.

About 8 o'clock tonight, officers here were told, Arant telephoned to the Norman home and requested that Mr. and Mrs. Norman visit him. Norman and his wife responded promptly and drove to Arant's house.

The Norman and Arant homes, both located on the old Montgomery Highway, are about 300 yards apart.

Leaving their car at the curb, the parking lights burning, Mrs. Norman walked up the steps of Arant's home. Her husband stepped from the machine and followed.

What happened immediately afterwards had not been definitely determined tonight, but neighbors heard three reports of an automatic shotgun. They, however, apparently did not attribute the explosion to a shotgun, or thought it of no significance.

Within a few minutes after the shots were fired, Arant was reported to have telephoned to the home of Dr. W. E. Lee, local physician, and to the sheriff's home at Hayneville.

"Something terrible has happened," he was quoted as saying to Dr. Lee. "Get five or six of your friends and come to my place at once." He was said to have hung up the receiver without explaining. He told the sheriff that he "had better come over."

Several Drive to Home

Taking Arant at his word, Dr. Lee

called upon several citizens and drove quickly to the former's home. There they found Mrs. Norman's body upon the porch at the front door, her body badly managled by the discharge of a shotgun. Powder burns were found upon her clothing.

Mr. Norman, also shot from the front, was dead just outside the front gate. Both, apparently, had died instantly. When the group arrived they found two or three citizens who had been attracted to the scene.

Cecil Hawkins, fertilizer dealer who was in Dr. Lee's party, said they found Norman's car at the curb, the parking lights on.

"Only two or three people got there before we did," he said. "Both Mr. and Mrs. Norman were dead from buckshot wounds. We immediately began a search for Mr. Arant in an effort to learn what had happened. He was gone, though, and so were his wife and four small children. Evidently they walked

or were picked up by some friends, as, so far as we know, they have no automobile.

"Of course, we do not know if Mrs. Arant and the children were home at the time. Some of the folks near the home said they thought they saw them walking along the street. But they were not certain.

"We found three empty shotgun shells on the porch near Mrs. Norman's home. They evidently were the ones used. Inside the house in the kitchen, we found a shotgun. It was loaded with two shells. Except for that, no one in Fort Deposit seemed to know what it was all about."

The bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Norman were taken to the funeral establishment of Black and Glass where Coroner Emmett Sheehan said an inquest would be held.

Mr. Norman, 40, was a native of this community and was highly esteemed by his friends and customers. His wife, daughter of E. D. Scarbrough, for many years an official of Lowndes County, was also popular here. Before her marriage she taught at the Herron Street School, at Montgomery.

Surviving are her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Scarbrough, of Hayneville; a brother, Emmett Scarbrough, Jr., of Hayneville; two sisters, Mrs. Ulrick Canterbury, of Fort Deposit, and Mrs. Ora Belle Crum, of Montgomery; an aunt, Mrs. Paul Peavy, of New York, and four uncles, J. M. Garrett, of Montgomery, E. D. Garrett, of Birmingham; J. E. Garrett, of Hope Hull, and W. Will Garrett, of Lake Charles La.

Arant was likewise well known in Fort Deposit where for the last four or five years he had been local manager of the Alabama Power Company.

NEGRO HELD FOR MURDER IN 1932 Fingerprint Survey Reveals Identity Of Man Working In Road Camp

Through U. S. Army fingerprint records, a negro who was tried and convicted in Montgomery County in 1932 of assault with intent to murder, under the name of James Glenn, has been identified as Lee Somerville, charged with the murder of the then sheriff of Pickens County and one of his deputies in 1926. It was announced by State prison officials yesterday.

He will be placed on trial at a special term of the Pickens Circuit Court, which has already been called.

Somerville, it is stated, does not deny either his identity or the shooting. He has made a statement admitting both, it was learned last night, declaring that through he knew he had shot the officers he did not know he had killed either of them.

Formerly an employe of the sanitary department of the City of Columbus, Miss., Somerville, it is said, came from there to Pickens County across the State line, bringing with him a negro girl some 14 years of age. Columbus officers telephoned the Pickens sheriff telling him where he believed the negro and the girl were hiding, and asking the Alabama officer to take them into custody.

Taking a deputy with him, the sheriff proceeded at once to the house indicated. As the deputy approached the house, he was fired upon from a front window and fell mortally wounded by a charge of shot from a shotgun. Hurrying to his deputy's assistance, the sheriff was set by a second blast from the gun, which caught him full in the chest, and he too fell. Their assailant fled and all efforts to locate him failed until his recent identification at the road camp. Up to the time of his arrest and conviction in Montgomery, he had resided in and near the city, it is understood, ever since the tragedy; never leaving the State.

Somerville alias Glenn, who following his conviction here on Nov. 21, 1932, was given a prison sentence of from three and a half to four years, has been working at a State road camp located near Scottsboro where, it is understood, he had the status of a "trusty." It was during a check of prison fingerprint records with similar records of the U. S. Army, at the camp last week, it was stated, that the negro was identified as Somerville.

his slayer also shot and wounded the sheriff, who died of his wounds more than two years later. Somerville is already under indictment for the murder of the deputy, and another indictment will be returned against him for killing the sheriff, it is understood, at the next meeting of the Pickens Grand Jury.

DEPUTIES LOSE NEGRO, FIND MURDER SUSPECT Pair's Trip to Eufaula Not Entirely In Vain

Deputy Sheriffs Sam Arnett and H. C. Pevele, didn't find what they were looking for in Eufaula but they found something else equally valuable, the pair said today. The two deputies went to Eufaula in search of the murderer of Henry Jernigan, Negro whom they had heard was in Barbour County. Their quarry wasn't there but they found another Negro murder suspect and brought him back to county jail.

The prisoner, Henry Spencer, is charged with the fatal stabbing of Roosevelt Waters, Negro, on Jan. 20 at Ninth-av, s, and 25th-st.

Killer of Negro Gets One Year

As Jurors Sleep Slay Works

DECATUR, Ala., June 28.—While two jurors slept, Gene Giers, a white boy, was tried for the killing of Henry Love, a Negro, in the same court-room that saw Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of the Scottsboro boys, railroaded to death sentences by a jury very much awake to the every lynching speech of the prosecution. The same judge sat in the case of Giers who speeded up the legal lynching of the Scottsboro boys and did everything in his power to keep the defense from presenting evidence that meant life or death for nine black boys. This was Judge W. W. Callahan. Early in July, Callahan will hear the attorneys for the International Labor Defense plead that bail be set for two of the boys, Willie Roberson and Olen Montgomery.

Two of the jurors fell asleep during the evidence, and had to be awakened and informed that they and their fellow-jurors were to retire and deliberate on the case.

The verdict in Giers' case was not death in the electric chair, but one year in jail.

Body of Willie Foster, Missing Negro, Believed Buried by Cops Who Handed Him to Vigilantes

SELMA, Ala., July 1.—The body of a Negro was reported found on the Summerfield road near here and hurriedly buried by police who threatened Negro people living in that vicinity not to tell. Workers here believe the body to be that of Willie Foster, militant Negro worker and International Labor Defense leader from Birmingham, missing six weeks.

Foster has not been heard of since the police turned him over to the landlord vigilantes for "treatment" on the night of May 19. Foster had been in Selma only an hour. He went there to investigate terror conditions and was lifted off the main street by Selma cops. His continued absence verifies the belief that he was murdered by the terror gang outright, or else beaten so brutally that he died as a result of the wounds inflicted.

It is known that the police here fear an investigation into the disappearance of Foster. They have received numerous wire and written protests, naming police among six prominent Selma shopkeepers and local landlords as members of the terror gang. They cover their own uneasiness with continued threats and bullying acts against the Selma workers. All trains are watched for outsiders who might bring assistance to the terror-infested community of Negro workers. A local worker reports that "the landlords say that if any of them Reds come down here any place that they were going to kill them."

Meanwhile, six share-croppers remain in the Selma jail. The I. L. D. sent a lawyer into Selma to defend them, but the lawyer was informed by Selma authorities that the prisoners had been released.

The Selma terror is the direct result of landlord reaction to the organizing of the cotton choppers into militant strike struggle under the leadership of the Share Croppers Union of Alabama. In Dallas County, of which Selma is the county seat, as elsewhere in the Black Belt, the poverty-stricken choppers were successful in winning their demands for dollar-a-day wages (ten hour day in the hot sun) on over 30 plantations. Previously they had worked for 35 cents a day, top price.

The terror unleashed against the workers by the police and landlords is an indication of the extent to which they fear the organization of the exploited Negro and white masses in the Black Belt.

All workers are urged to rain pro-

tests upon Mayor Burns, Selma, Ala., upon Sheriff Reynolds, Selma, Ala., and upon Governor Bibb Graves, Montgomery, Ala. Demand arrest and prosecution of the murderers of Willie Foster! Demand an end to landlord and police terror against the workers and farmers of Dallas County!

Condemned Negro Found On Georgia Chain Gang

DOTHAN, ALA., July 25.—(Special)—There may be fugitives from the Georgia chain gang at large but Georgia also harbors fugitives from electric chair. Sheriff Max May learned today.

He discovered that Theo Spears, negro who year ago shot through the window of a dwelling and killed a negro woman here, escaping after the crime, is serving a life term on the Morgan, Ga., chain gang—for killing a negro woman there.

As in Dothan, the negro used a shotgun on his second woman victim.

TWO NEGROES SHOT IN HOUSTON FIGHTS

Officers Spent Busy Weekend In Series Of Gun Duels

Around Dothan

DOTHAN, ALA., July 22.—(Special)—

As word came from Hartford of the killing early this morning of Dan Shate, negro, by Policeman Leamons, Houston

County authorities check one negro shot in an encounter with the Dothan police and another escaping into Henry County after a gunfight, and a plantation chopper ganged by five negroes from Valin, Ga., when he ordered them off his place.

The Hartford shooting brought to a climax a weekend brush with the law by Shate and Henry Hall, the latter white. Saturday night when Shate slipped a pistol from the pocket of Deputy John Fate, compelled him to restore six gallons of whisky the officer had taken from Shate's car, and got away.

Shate was encountered in Hartford early this morning, refused to halt when hailed and was shot by Leamons. Hall is held in the Geneva County jail on an open charge.

Policeman Clarence Conrad, of Dothan, shot Doris Parker in the face when he retorted he was "dropping nothing" when Conrad ordered him to surrender a shotgun. The negro had been terrorizing Frogtown when the law was called.

M. C. Thompson, negro escape from Kilby, was at large after a gun fight with

Deputies Clayton Adams and Ivy Forrester when they surrounded him in a money.

negro dwelling. When the officers stormed the house, Thompson struggled negro owed to a store, and Estes asked with Adams and then dived through a window to freedom. Henry County officers reported firing several shots at him replied that he had paid it and Estes suggested that they both go to the store and verify the payment, it was said. At this point, the negro is said to have pulled \$2.50 out of his pocket, handed it to Estes, and a moment later whipped out a .45 caliber pistol and began firing at Estes.

Estes fell with a bullet through his lung and one through his arm. The negro fled.

The young farmer was carried to the Tallassee Hospital before noon, and he died there at 5 p.m.

A search for the negro was launched by Sheriff Austin, Chief Deputy Herbert Richardson and citizens. Harrell gave up to a Mr. Billingsley about three-quarters of a mile from the scene of the shooting, officers said. He was taken to the Wetumpka jail and held on a charge of murder.

Chief Deputy Richardson said last night that the pistol used in the slaying had not been found, and that several angles of the investigation lacked clarification. He said that there were indications that the Harrell negro had been drinking prior to the shooting.

The body of Estes, who is survived by his widow and other relatives, was held by Herren & Mann, Tallassee funeral directors, pending arrangements. It was said the funeral would be held upon arrival of relatives, who live a great distance from Tallassee.

Estes was a member of an old and prominent family of this section.

Farmer Held In Slaying Of Lee County Negro

OPELIKA, ALA., Aug. 27.—(Special)—Curtis McConnell, 24-year-old Lee County farmer, is held in the Lee County jail charged with the murder of Seab Cooper, negro, Sheriff Emmitt Holt said today.

The Sheriff said he received a call Sunday afternoon to come out and investigate a murder about five miles South of the city in the McConnell community. Motorists told the Sheriff that in passing they had noticed McConnell, apparently asleep, on one side of the road and the negro dead on the other.

Sheriff Holt said when he reached the scene McConnell had already been brought to the jail by a relative. Jail attendants told the Sheriff that McConnell was under the influence of liquor when admitted to the jail. He was also quoted as saying he and the negro were in a "crap game," the Sheriff said.

Sheriff W. A. Austin, of Elmore County, was holding Torrie Harrell, negro, who surrendered to a citizen near the scene of the shooting while a posse and bloodhounds were combing the country for him. Harrell was in jail at Wetumpka.

According to reports from officers and citizens, the Harrell negro, who worked on the Estes farm, sold a bale of cotton Saturday and failed to return that night for a settlement with Estes. Sunday morning, about 9 o'clock, Estes went over to

Ax-Wielding Negro Slain By Overseer

Gilbert Ledyard, negro, was shot to death yesterday afternoon on the Teague Farm, 8 1-2 miles south of here on the Mobile Road, when he allegedly attacked W. T. Kennedy, overseer of another Teague farm, with an ax.

Earlier in the afternoon, Deputies Sellers and Mosley were told several negroes under Kennedy's supervision complained to him that Ledyard and several companions refused them the right to take their groceries from a truck which had stopped at their place.

Kennedy, it was said, told the negroes to return to their work and that he would get the groceries for them. He then drove to the second Teague farm and demanded the property of his charges. At the time several negroes, all intoxicated, were engaged in a fight and Ledyard, it was said, rushed upon Kennedy with an ax. It was then, the deputies said, that he drew his weapon and fired. The deputies said it was "plainly a case of self-defense."

Elmore Farmer Shot To Death

Chester Estes Slain After Argument With Negro; Latter In Wetumpka Jail

TALLASSEE, ALA., Aug. 25.—(Special.)

Chester Estes, 29-year-old farmer, died in a hospital here this afternoon from bullet wounds officers said were inflicted by a negro tenant farmer during an argument over a debt this morning at Estes's farm, five miles from Tallassee.

Sheriff W. A. Austin, of Elmore County, was holding Torrie Harrell, negro, who surrendered to a citizen near the scene of the shooting while a posse and bloodhounds were combing the country for him. Harrell was in jail at Wetumpka.

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Killings-1935

JURY PROBE ORDERED IN NEGRO'S SLAYING

Case Of Policeman Shooting Man
Will Go On Docket

The Jefferson County Grand Jury will be asked to investigate the fatal shooting of Isaac Mitchell, Negro dish washer in an Ensley cafe, Coroner Gip M. Evans said today.

Mitchell was shot by Officer F. E. Duke last Wednesday while the policeman was "playing" with the Negro. On his deathbed the Negro asked that the officer not be blamed for the accident. The policeman is under indefinite suspension pending his trial before the Civil Service Board of the Police Department.

Murder-A-Day

Killings Among Negroes
Have Totaled Seven
Since New Year

Birmingham has an average a murder-a-day for the new year.

The deaths of three Negroes from violence over the week-end today had brought the total of homicides for the New Year to seven. All the victims were Negroes.

Frank Green, 43, of 813 John-st., was fatally shot by his son, Fred, 20, when, according to police, he attacked his wife the boy's mother.

John Harris Daniels was fatally stabbed in an argument over liquor at 819 11th-st. n.

Cleve Witherspoon, 43, of 409 12th-av, East Thomas, died in Hillman Hospital of injuries received Wednesday when he said he was shoved off a railroad trestle by two unidentified white men and a Negro.

Limestone County Startled By Fourth Mysterious Death Within Nine Weeks

MOORESVILLE, ALA., Jan. 9. (AP)—Uneasiness spread through this area tonight as officers concentrated their search for a clue to the solution of four mysterious deaths within a radius of two miles—and all within the last nine weeks.

A coroner's jury this afternoon returned a verdict of death from "causes unknown" in the death of Jolly, 18, who was substituting for his father as nightwatchman on a bridge over Piney Creek that has been the cause of considerable dissension. Jolly was found dead in his watchman's shack this morning.

Russell Balch, foreman of the coro-

Colored Woman Murdered

Sunday afternoon, while she was returning to her home from Church Services, Mary Bankston was shot and instantly killed by her husband, Walter Bankston, who met her just after she left the Institute Road, in the vicinity of Mrs. R. K. Alexander's home. He fired after she turned to run, the shot striking her in her left shoulder and penetrated to her heart. Death was instantaneous.

Trying to escape, Bankston fled toward Montgomery highway, where he tried to secure a ride on the highway, from a passing motorist, who returned to Tuskegee and reported the incident. This enabled the police to locate him quickly. Chief of Police Thrasher, accompanied by a negro who knew Bankston, found him on the Torrence place, about five miles from Tuskegee. He was arrested and brought back to Tuskegee and placed in jail.

Bankston was an ex-service man of Decatur, Alabama, who married Mary about two years ago. He has been employed since January at the Government Hospital. Mary was the daughter of Fannie Bowen, highly respected colored people of good character. Mary was a graduate of Tuskegee Institute and was employed at Carr's Laundry to keep tickets and records.

Bankston was an ex-service man of Decatur, Alabama, who married Mary about two years ago. He has been employed since January at the Government Hospital. Mary was the daughter of Fannie Bowen, highly respected colored people of good character. Mary was a graduate of Tuskegee Institute and was employed at Carr's Laundry to keep tickets and records.

youth, but did not fix an exact cause that the windows had not been tampered with, and that the doors were locked.

Sheriff A. L. Baker, conducting the investigation, said tonight he was discounting any theory of asphyxiation as evidence before the coroner's jury showed a charcoal stove in the shack had not been lighted. A window in the shack also was found partly open.

Several citizens of this section earlier had advanced a theory of asphyxiation as the solution of young Jolly's death. Although several citizens scouted the idea of any danger to other persons, many were frankly uneasy.

"All the men in the community tried to make the women think light of the matter," said Mrs. Henry Zeitler, wife of a prominent planter, "but we know it is serious and we don't know who will be next."

The death of young Jolly was the fourth in nine weeks in this area that is unsolved. Sheriff Baker, however, said the deaths were not related, and particularly was Jolly's death divorced from the others.

Henry Zeitler today reported a mysterious attack on Will Cartwright, a negro tenant on his place. Zeitler said someone attacked the negro in his home near here with a hammer or some blunt instrument early Tuesday. Several stitches were necessary to close the wound.

A negro, Richard Settlers, who lived near the bridge where young Jolly was found dead this morning, told officers he saw three men in the watchman's shack early last night and they seemed to be in a good humor. After he had gone to bed, he said, he heard a muffled shot in the direction of the bridge.

"There are indications that he might have been choked or smothered to death," said Sheriff Baker after an investigation. "There are some peculiar things about the case that we do not feel should be made public as yet."

Sheriff Baker said physicians found a light bruise on the left shoulder, a small skin bruise above the left eye, and a bump over the ear, part of which caused death.

Although there was some evidence of a struggle, Sheriff Baker said Jolly's shotgun stood in the corner of the shack where he usually kept it, and two loaded shells were nearby. One discharged shotgun shell was in the shack, however, and there were some pellets in the walls.

That constituted the evidence and clues on which the officers had to work to unravel the latest mystery death in the Mooresville area.

"It is very mysterious," the sheriff said, adding that he and his force of deputies had not been able to find a lead in any of the three previous mysterious deaths around Mooresville, the first of which was that of Mrs. James E. Morgan, whose body was found beside the railroad tracks on November 7.

The death of Mrs. Morgan, who last was seen alive on a Pullman car en route from Medford, Mass., to Sheffield, Ala., started the chain of mysteries. Examination of the Pullman disclosed

Mobile Grocer-Butcher Killed By Negro Bandit

MOBILE, ALA., Jan. 28. (AP)—Twirling his gun on his trigger finger between shots, one of two masked negro bandits tonight fired two bullets into the head of L. M. Sands, 60, grocery butcher shop proprietor, killing him instantly and critically wounding his wife as she fled screaming from the store.

Mrs. Sands, with bullets in her chest and abdomen, was rushed to City Hospital in a critical condition.

Police were seeing a negro woman said to have yelled: "Ernest has shot the lady, too!"

J. Moses Frank, shopkeeper across the street, and Robert Pope, negro errand boy, witnessed the shooting and described how the gunman spun his pistol on his trigger finger as he wheeled and fired at Mrs. Sands after shooting her husband. Four bullets were fired, all taking effect. The bandits obtained only \$10.

New Trial Granted Condemned Negro

Because the judge presiding at the trial of the case was out of the courtroom and in an anteroom adjoining for five or ten minutes while the solicitor was making his closing address, and argument to the jury and had to be summoned by the Sheriff to the courtroom, the Alabama Supreme Court yesterday granted another trial to Percy Smith, alias "Baby Face," convicted of first degree murder in Etowah County for shooting and killing Charlie Mabry in a quarrel over a dime.

In reversing and remanding the case the high court in opinion by Justice W. H. Thomas, said: "It is the duty of the trial judge at all times (unless under circumstances or at a time when his presence may be and is waived) during the progress of a trial—of which the argument to the jury is an important part of the process—to remain on the bench in the presence and hearing of the trial and argument to the jury, to see that the trial proceeds in an orderly manner and in accordance with law."

The Supreme Court, however, affirmed judgment of the Clay Circuit Court in the case of Blake Ruff, negro who when Eva Boyd refused to marry him told him she was going to marry another man; first tore up in her presence a marriage license he had obtained and then, producing a pistol, shot and killed her, and fatally wounded her father and brother. Convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to death, Ruff appealed. His execution has been set by the high court for Friday, March 22.

Scottsboro Judge's Kin Held In Killing

DECATUR, ALA., Jan. 15. (AP)—Shot five times with a pistol as he stood in the Bank Street poolroom here late today, John Sherrill, 42, died in a hospital a few minutes later.

Frank Callahan, 27, brother of Judge W. W. Callahan, who presided in the second Scottsboro trial was placed in the County Jail by Sheriff Street Sandlin following the shooting. Sheriff Sandlin said witnesses told him Callahan fired the shots that ended Sherrill's life.

Callahan, the Sheriff said, remained at the poolroom until officers arrived and took him into custody. The prisoner has declined to make a statement following his arrest, Sheriff Sandlin said.

The Sheriff said witnesses to the shooting told him they did not hear any arguments or conversation prior to the firing of the five shots, all of which took effect in Sherrill's body.

In opinion by Justice A. B. Foster, the Court also upheld judgment of the Walker Circuit Court in the case of William Winston, negro, and set for the same late execution of the death sentence imposed on him following his conviction in Walker County, of the murder of Travis Benton, a white man.

Negro Fugitive From Alabama Held In Virginia

BECKLEY, W. VA., Jan. 13—(P)—A negro thrice sentenced to be hanged in Alabama for murder and who finally obtained a commutation of his sentence to life imprisonment was captured here late last night by five deputies sheriff after being hunted since 1923.

Officers said he is Charles Wimberley 44, who escaped from a prison camp at Albrich, Ala., after serving three years of his life sentence.

He was sentenced to die for the murder of another negro in 1915 at Woodward, Ala., but after receiving three reprieves finally obtained a commutation of sentence to life imprisonment.

Wimberley was arrested by Deputy Sheriff L. A. Green of Raleigh County and Deputy Sheriff Robert Godsey, of Fayette County at Minden, Fayette County where he had worked as a miner. The officers said he used the alias of William Davis.

Green communicated with Alabama officers after a several weeks investigation and Wimberley's arrest followed. He is held in jail pending arrival of Alabama officers.

NEGRO'S FEARS OF MURDER JUSTIFIED

Police Investigate Slaying Of Threatened Man

A week after he told police white men had been threatening to kill him and that he was afraid to sleep in his home, Charlie Jones, Negro, of 309 11th-s., was fatally shot in the chest yesterday afternoon.

Detectives J. W. McFarland and W. M. Espy said the man who is suspected of threatening the Negro had accused him of stealing 10 gallons of whisky.

The Negro was shot in the chest with a shotgun in the rear of his home. He died on way to the hospital.

Police are searching for the slayer on a description furnished by witnesses.

Negro Is Executed For Hale Murder

The first man to be executed in Alabama since March 9, 1934, Eddie Thomas, Hale County negro, died in the electric chair at Kilby Prison early today for the murder of Ray Johnson, young white store clerk.

The negro was led into the death chamber a few minutes after midnight, and, after being strapped in the chair, was asked if he had a statement to make. He declined and the first shock was administered.

After examination by prison physicians, the second shock was applied, and, a few minutes later, he was pronounced dead.

The negro lost his final chance to live yesterday when Gov. Graves declined to commute his death sentence. The board of pardons previously had voted unanimously against clemency.

Thomas was convicted of shooting Johnson to death on the streets of Greensboro after the clerk had chased a "snatch thief" out of the store.

About 30 persons, including Hale County people, officers, and newspapermen, witnessed the execution, the first in the new administration with Warden Frank Boswell in charge.

Negro Woman Slain, 2 Hurt In Knife Affrays

One negro was slain and two others badly wounded in stabbing affrays here yesterday.

Martha Bristol, of Winter Street, was stabbed to death yesterday afternoon during a fight at Winter Street. Police who were sent to investigate said they were seeking Pompie White, also a negro, in connection with the crime.

James L. Diggs, 434 South Bainbridge Street, was reported to have been badly wounded in an affray at 414 East Grove Street. He was taken to a hospital and Cliff Cole and Henry Phelan, both negroes, arrested on charges of assault to murder.

A woman was stabbed here yesterday with an ice-pick but her name was not learned.

Jilted Negro Who Killed 4 People Tells Pardon Board Why He Did It

Convicted in Hale County of the murder of his sweetheart, his rival, and his sweetheart's father and brother, under sentence to be executed in the electric chair at Kilby Prison next Friday —Blake Ruff, negro, made a fervent plea of self-defense yesterday afternoon at a hearing at the Capitol before Gov. Graves and members of the State Board of Pardons, in support of his petition asking that the punishment imposed on him be commuted to life imprisonment.

The negro declared he became temporarily insane when the girl who had promised to marry him, withdrew her promise, telling him she intended to marry another, and that it was while he was in that condition that the fatal shooting in which four persons were killed, occurred. His main contention was, however, that each of the four killed was slain in self defense.

His sweetheart's father, he said, was threatening him with a shotgun, the girl herself was about to remove a razor from her clothing where it was hidden, her brother had some sort of a patented knife he was seeking to bring into play, and the rival attempted first to shoot him with a shotgun and thereafter to assault him with a butcher knife. In the fusillade of shots fired by Ruff, the sweetheart's mother who fled the scene was unhurt, but an infant she carried in her arms had the flesh on one side of its face scored by a bullet.

Ruff said he bought the girl he sought to marry, some clothes, and with a marriage license he had procured, went to her home, where he presented her with the clothing which she accepted, but when he broached the subject of marriage, she told him she was going to marry another man. He said he then demanded the return of the clothing, but she refused, and her father with a shotgun trained on him would not let him take them back. That was when he opened fire with his pistol, Ruff stated.

The Governor and the Pardon Board had also intended to hear the clemency application of Will Winton, Walker County negro, who is also sentenced to be electrocuted next Friday, but when hearing of the Ruff case was concluded it day, of the petition for commutation of the Ruff case was postponed until 9 o'clock this morning. Winton was convicted of the murder of two white men.

One Negro Dies, Other Reprieved

A negro who killed four persons died in Kilby Prison's electric chair early this morning after a second negro sentenced to die at the same time was given a reprieve by Gov. Graves a few hours earlier.

Blake Ruff, Hale County negro, was electrocuted for the murder of his sweetheart, his rival, the girl's father, and her brother. After the woman refused to marry him. His defense was that he was temporarily insane and that each of the

four persons he slew was armed and attempting to kill him. Evidence offered by the State, however, showed that none of the murdered quartet was armed.

Huff entered the death chamber at 12:06 a.m. In reply to Warden Frank Boswell, the negro said he had nothing to say. Two shocks were administered and he was pronounced dead at 12:20. Unlike most executions, only nine witnesses, most of them newspaper reporters, saw the execution besides the required officials, the warden, physicians, and guards. Twenty to 25 witnesses usually are present.

Will Winton, Walker County negro, who was to have died for the murder of Buck Guthrie and Travis Benton, was granted a four weeks' reprieve by the Governor last night. Winton's defense was that he was halted in the road by the two men, who had been drinking, and had an altercation with them. Winton with his dinner spoon which he had fashioned into a crude dagger by scraping it on the wall.

Negro's Plea For Mercy Is Denied

The State Board of Pardons yesterday unanimously declined to recommend commutation to life imprisonment of the death sentence imposed on Blake Ruff, Clay County negro, following his conviction of the murder of his sweetheart, his rival and his sweetheart's father and brother. Ruff claimed self-defense in each instance, also that he became temporarily insane when the girl he killed refused to marry him and told him she was going to marry another. Having been acted on by the Pardon Board, the case is now before Gov. Graves for his final decision. Execution of Ruff in the electric chair at Kilby Prison is set for early Friday morning.

Hearings were concluded before the Governor and Board of Pardons yesterday, of the petition for commutation of the Ruff case was concluded it day, of the petition for commutation of the Ruff case was postponed until 9 o'clock this morning. Winton was convicted of the murder of two white men, Buck Guthrie and Travis Benton. Winton does not deny firing the shots that resulted in the death of Benton and Guthrie, but steadfastly maintains that he did so in self-defense. Judge Charles E. McCall, State auditor, late yesterday forwarded to Gov. Graves a written report declining to recommend clemency in the case. The other two members of the Board, Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael, and Secretary of State Howell Turner, are expected to make their reports to the Chief Executive some time today or tomorrow. Execution of Winton is also set for Friday morning.

NEGRO SLAYER DIES IN CHAIR

Clay Countian Convicted Of Murdering Four;

One Granted Stay

MONTGOMERY, March 22.—(Special.)—Blake Ruff, Clay County Negro, died in the electric chair at Kilby Prison at 12:20 a. m. today for killing his sweetheart, three members of her family. Jilted after buying a marriage license Ruff took the four lives near Delta several months ago. Yesterday he tried to commit suicide in the condemned cell by slashing himself with his dinner spoon which he had fashioned into a crude dagger by scraping it on the wall.

Will Winton, Walker County Negro, who also was to die this morning for killing two white men, Travis Denton and Buck Guthrie, was granted a 30-day reprieve by Governor Graves.

Winton's aged mother was once employed as a cook at the home of former Gov. William J. Samford, Opelika, where Governor Graves was a frequent guest. She had lengthy interviews with the governor last week in her son's behalf.

Opelika Jury Convicts

Negro In 20 Minutes

OPELIKA, ALA., May 18—(Special.)—A jury of the Lee County Circuit Court is believed to have established a precedent Friday when it was out only 20 minutes and returned a verdict of guilty of murder in first degree against John Preston, 32-year-old negro. The decision reaching jury fixed his punishment at death in the electric chair. Well informed court officials said this is the first person to be given the death sentence in Lee County in the last 20 years. Preston was indicted by a Lee County Grand Jury for slaying Eloise Swanson, 10-year-old negro girl.

Killings-1935.

Alabama

ALABAMA SHERIFF MURDERS MILITANT SHARECROPPER

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(CNA)—High Sheriff, R. E. Woodruff, white, carved another notch in his gun butt when he cold-bloodedly shot down Willie Witcher, militant cotton striker, on the Bell Plantation, near Haynesville.

Woodruff is the notorious leader of a gang of landlords and paid thugs who are trying to smash the cotton pickers' strike. The gang has already murdered the striker, Jim Press Meriweather, and beaten six others.

Riding up to cabins in the dead of the night, the gangsters dragged the striker from his bed, carried him a few miles away and beat him unconscious.

Strikers Stand Firm

Last Monday Woodruff was called to the Bell plantation where a strike was in progress. His coaxing and honeyed words to return to work fell on deaf ears. The strikers reiterated the demand for \$1 per hundred pounds of cotton picked.

Expressing the sentiment of the strikers, Witcher walked off stating that he was going home and would not return until the strike demand was met. The sheriff ordered him to halt.

When the laborer complied with the order, Woodruff drew his pistol and shot five times, hitting him in the thigh. A deputy then fired at Witcher as he fell to the ground.

"I'll kill you, you black son-of-a-bitch", Woodruff roared, slugging Witcher over the head as the defenseless worker lay writhing on the ground.

"You may kill me, but you can't scare me", Witcher defiantly retorted.

The injured farmhand was taken to the Haynesville jail.

Willie Grove and two other laborers who were arrested for possessing membership cards of the Sharecroppers Union were released this week. Grove was re-arrested on a charge of "robbing a store".

Reports from plantations in Lowndes county indicate that the strike is still solid despite the landlord terror.

Negro Leader Of Croppers Union Shot

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Sept. 10.—Edward Bracey, Negro leader of the Share Croppers Union of Hope Hull, near here, was shot yesterday by a gang of landlords and policemen. Bracey is the fifth cropper shot

since May 1. Others killed in the struggle for decent conditions were Willie Foster, Jim Merriweather, Sam Childs and B. Johnson.

Despite the terror against the cotton pickers, the strike remains solid.

The Alabama district of the International Labor Defense issued a statement today urging all workers and friends of civil liberties to send protests to Governor Bibb Graves at Montgomery and to Sheriff R. E. Woodruff, Haynesville,

Negro Gets Chair In Elmore Slaying

WETUMPKA, ALA., Sept. 27.—(Special)—An Elmore County Circuit Court jury late Thursday night convicted Torrie Harrell, 32-year-old negro tenant farmer, of the murder of his white landlord, Chester Estes, 29, and sentenced the negro to death in the electric chair. Sentence will be passed by Judge Arthur Glover Saturday.

Estes was shot to death on the morning of Aug. 25 following an argument with the negro over a \$2.50 debt, the evidence showed. When Estes remonstrated with the negro about failing to pay the debt, the negro pulled out a large caliber pistol, chased Estes around Estes's automobile and shot the white man three times.

Estes was carried to the Tallahassee hospital where he died a few hours later. The negro gave himself up to Homer Billingsley, who handed him over to Sheriff Austin, of Elmore County.

Winston Huddleston, county solicitor, prosecuted the case and the negro was defended by John Harris and R. A. Horn. The jury returned a verdict at 11:15 p.m. Thursday after deliberating less than three hours.

Second Negro Is Given Chair For Elmore Slaying

WETUMPKA, ALA., Sept. 28.—(Special)—Convicted of stabbing a fellow negro convict to death, A. B. Smiley, Speigner prison inmate, today was the second negro sentenced to die in the electric chair in Elmore County Circuit Court this week.

Torrie Harrell, negro tenant farmer, was given the death sentence for the slaying of Chester Estes, his white landlord, on Aug. 25, following an argument over a \$2.50 debt.

The negro slain by Smiley was Pete Berry, stabbed to death on July 19 in Speigner prison as the convicts were marching to their cells. The jury returned the verdict after less than three hours' deliberation.

Both negroes were sentenced this morning by Judge Arthur Glover, when a number of other prisoners convicted during the week were sentenced. Included were Paul Worthman, three and a half to four years for burglary and grand larceny; Roy Powell, 20 to 30 months for burglary and grand larceny; Alton Pearson, two years for manslaughter, second degree.

Lynch Cry Raised As Birmingham Police Seek Negro Youth

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Sept. 23.—Paul Pickens, 16-year-old Negro youth, is being sought by police for slaying a white boy. The newspapers have taken up the cry with front page and streamer spreads and are doing their utmost to arouse a pitch of lynch frenzy against the Negro boy.

The body of Alton Cook, 25-

Cook's young niece stated that her uncle had "taken the shot-gun and made Paul go off in the woods with him, telling him he was going to kill him," because he had "caught Pickens stealing wood from his woodpile."

MURDER VIOLENCE ON POLICE BLOTTER

Negro Stabs Woman To Death In Altercation Of 5 Cents Worth Of Fish

Montgomery's police blotter last night recorded, among others, the charges of murder, assault to murder, and robbery.

In addition there were reports of an automobile accident in which one person was slightly injured; the theft of an automobile, two burglaries, and numerous disorders in which five or more negroes were wounded.

James Washington, negro of 16 Hopper Street, was arrested on the charge of murder. Officers Rutherford and Miller were told that he plunged a butcher knife into the breast of Mollie Ivory, negro woman of 25 Stonewall Street, after the two had argued over the purchase of a nickel's worth of fish. The woman was killed instantly.

Officers Earnest, Newton, Nettles and Ruppenthal arrested three negroes following cutting or shooting affrays. Ethel Cook was charged with cutting Rose Helms, 7 Smythe Street, with a razor. Oscar Turner was charged with shooting Ben Henderson, negro of 511 North Union Street, and Marion Crank was alleged to have struck Josh Gray, a negro, over the head with an automobile crank.

It was reported here that two or three negroes had been injured in a melee at or near, White Hall, Ala., but no details were given Montgomery officers.

James Cravey, 31-year-old negro ex-convict, was arrested on a charge of robbery by Officers Miller and Rutherford after the negro was seized and wounded by Houston Howard, negro, his intended victim. Howard was struck over the head as he walked along Madison Avenue and robbed of his pocketbook which contained \$8. Howard fell forward but regained his feet and overtook Cravey. An accomplice escaped.

In the struggle both Cravey and Howard were wounded by a pocketknife.

When searched Cravey had three pocketbooks, one of them Howard's. Cravey asserted that "somebody put 'em in my pocket," and denied any knowledge of the crime. Fingerprint records disclosed that he was an ex-convict.

In addition to the arrests, police were

told that burglars had entered Marshall Green's home at 38 Capitol Parkway and an office at 214 1-2 Monroe Avenue. Mr. Green reported no loss. A typewriter was removed from the office on Monroe Avenue. The burglar made unsuccessful attempts to open several other offices in the building.

Kal Schwartz, 3 Agnew Street, reported the theft of his automobile from near the intersection of Clayton and Molton Streets.

Saturday night, police were told, D. C. Register, 119 Clayton Street, received minor injuries when his car crashed into a truck parked on Monroe Avenue.

NEGRO SHARECROPPER KILLED IN ALABAMA

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Oct. 12.—(UP)—Finding of the bullet-riddled body of Smith Wadkins, negro characterized as the organizer and leader of negro sharecroppers in southern Alabama, was revealed today by officers, who said they had clues to solve his death.

No announcement had been made previously that the body had been found three weeks ago in a swamp in Butler county, near the plantation of W. C. Bates, where there had been so much trouble in the cotton sharecroppers' strike six weeks ago.

Sheriff L. N. Autrey claimed his investigation indicated Watkins was "contact man" between white communists and members of the sharecroppers' union.

Dothan Negro's Case Is Set For Wednesday

DOTHAN, ALA., Sept. 30.—(Special)—K. C. Stanford, negro, whose "Scottsboro" plea for dismissal of the first degree murder indictment against him was dismissed Saturday by Judge D. O. Halstead in Circuit Court, will be arraigned for trial Wednesday. A special venire of 20 men was called for jury duty.

Stanford's plea was made through N. Frank Bridgen and Lawrence Oakley, defense attorneys appointed by the court who declared that the negroes have been "systematically excluded" from juries in this county and cited the United States Supreme Court ruling in the notorious Scottsboro case.

It Happens in the South

By A. L. MERRITT

A YOUNG Negro is taken off a trolley in Birmingham, Ala. He is rushed to jail. His request for an International Labor Defense attorney is ignored. A quick trial and he is sentenced to 12 months on the chain gang. He was guilty of having a pamphlet on the Scottsboro case in his possession.

A WORKER, member of the Share Croppers' Union, answers a call to visit a "friend." The "friend" is a stool-pigeon. As the worker opens the gate to the house he is riddled by bullets. The murderer is tried before a jury. In ten minutes the carefully selected jury returns with a "Not Guilty—Self-defense." No weapon had been found on the dead man. . .

Two brief glimpses into our "fair" south. No legal or extra-legal means are being overlooked by the lords of modern industry to stop workers from organizing. New laws are formed; ancient statutes are dusted off; murderous vigilantes are given the complete cooperation of the law—anything to keep workers from gaining a barely livable wage. The South has become unsafe for any worker who believes that the Constitution guarantees freedom.

But each concentrated wave of terror is met with increased opposition. Each bloody drive to smash the unions has increased their membership. Workers who at one time broke up meetings, now attend them. In one small town when a Negro was arrested, white workers stormed the jail, not to lynch him, but to free him! What a threat

to profits when white workers learn they must fight with, not against black workers! On the other hand, if Southern owners succeed in suppressing workers' organizations with "anti-sedition" laws, vigilantes, blacklists, etc., it will be no time before our Northern capitalists and law machines follow along the path. Workers' losses in the South are immediately reflected in the North.

A little over a year ago, a group of professionals and white collar workers formed the Committee to Support Southern Textile Organization to promote trade union organization in the textile centers of the South. Today's conditions combined with the steady growth of the Committee necessitate the broadening of



Family of a Carolina Sharecropper

its scope to include Southern workers in all fields of industry and agriculture. It is now called the League for Southern Labor and has undertaken two basic tasks:

1—Support of Organizers. Workers who concentrate on organizing are more than apt to adorn blacklists, and they must eat even if it is only fat-back. Leaflets must be printed. Meetings and conferences in neighboring towns must be attended. At present organizers are being supported in the textile field. The League, with its expanded program, expects to maintain an increasing number of rank and file organizers throughout the South. This will be done through a series of mass meetings, lectures, forums, and varied social affairs.

2—Publicity and Education. The public's attention must be brought to the slave conditions under which Southern workers live; public opinion must be rallied to the defense of militant workers who have been thrown into jail by frame-ups. Mass protest, organized by the League, has resulted in having Fred McMahan—a young textile worker—taken off the chain-gang and made a trusty. The fight is still being carried out to free him from his sentence on a trumped-up charge.

The League will publish a monthly magazine "The South Today" and has undertaken research projects covering various aspects of the Southern labor movement. A study group on the South, led by Elizabeth Lawson, has been formed. There is a wealth of work to be done. More branches and more members are needed. One can help

fight American Nazism in the South by joining the League for Southern Labor. Further information can be had by writing to the League at Clarte, 304 W. 58th Street, New York City.

Two Negroes Slain; Three Put In Jail

City and county officers yesterday were investigating the slaying of two negroes. Weary Burch, whose home is near Washington Park, was shot and killed early yesterday morning. Police shortly after arrested his wife, Sarah, and step-son, Joe Bibb, in connection with the crime. The arresting officers said they heard that Bibb, 12, had fired the shot.

Willie Hunley, negro, was shot about 2 a.m., near his home early this morning on the Old Selma Road. Sheriff's Deputies Lamar Payne and Roy Stearns arrested Ed Hunley, a relative of the dead man, on a charge of murder.

Deputies Payne and Stearns also arrested Willie Harris, Eugene Street negro, on a charge of violating the prohibition law. The deputies said they found 21 gallons of corn liquor in Harris's house.

2 Killed, Sheriff Shot In 2 Affrays

Dale County Farmer Slain; Pickens Negro Riddled In Battle With Officers

A farmer and a negro were killed, a sheriff wounded and three negroes were held for questioning as the result of shooting affrays in two widely separated sections of the State late Saturday night. The dead farmer is J. H. Glover, of Enterprise, fatally injured when he was struck on the head with a piece of concrete by a negro. Sheriff Hood Ball, of Pickens County, was shot through the hip in a battle with a negro who was slain.

ENTERPRISE, ALA., Nov. 3.—(P)—A farmer was killed here last night and authorities today held three negroes and sought a fourth for questioning.

The farmer, J. H. Glover, was struck on the head with a piece of concrete at the mouth of an alley, and his companion, a man named Payne, told authorities a negro struck him.

Payne told officers they were passing a group of four negroes, and Glover accosted one whom he identified as Bus-

ter Walters, and asked him why he had not gone home.

Officers said Glover was then struck with the piece of concrete, crushing his skull.

Two negro women and a negro, listed as Jim Jones, were arrested a short time later. Walters was being sought.

CARROLLTON, ALA., Nov. 3.—(P)—Sheriff Hood Ball, of Pickens County, was wounded and a negro he was seeking to arrest, was killed last night in a battle at a negro home near Reform.

The sheriff was struck in the hip by a bullet as the negro opened fire when the officer approached the house where he was hiding.

Sheriff Ball and Deputy Sheriff Copeland, opened fire as the negro, William Randolph, fled after wounding the sheriff. He dropped with seven bullet holes in his body.

The officers sought to arrest the negro on charges of burglary filed in Tuscaloosa County.

OFFICERS KILL NEGRO; SHERIFF IS WOUNDED

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Killings-1935

Arkansas.

HELD FOR KILLING NEGRO New York Evening Post

Farmer Accused of Shooting Brown After Traffic Crash

FORREST CITY, Ark., Jan. 31.—Roosevelt Barton, farmer, of Colt, is in jail here for investigation into his connection with the killing of John Brown, Colt negro, after a coroner's jury had accused Barton of killing Brown when the negro helped him extricate his car after a crash.

Evidence brought out indicated that Barton's car struck Brown's wagon, breaking it and sending Barton's car into a ditch. The negro, offering to aid Barton, was attacked and shot, the jury was told.

THREE NEGROES HELD FOR FARMER'S DEATH

Officers Claim Confession in Camden, Killings

Camden, Killings 2-6-35

CAMDEN, Ark., Feb. 5.—(AP)—Sheriff A. W. Ellis said today that one of three negroes arrested and questioned about the slaying of 50-year-old Robert L. Robinson, Vidua Vista farmer, had confessed the killing and that all three had been charged with first degree murder.

The charges were filed against John Ware, 35, named by the sheriff as having made the confession, Ware's wife, Susie, 34, and Tommy Turner, 30.

The three were taken into custody when found burning brush in a woods where officers were seeking Robinson, who had been missing from his home for 24 hours. The officers subsequently discovered the farmer's body, buried in a shallow grave in the woods. He had a head injury and had been shot through the heart with a rifle.

Robinson disappeared after going toward the wood to borrow a saw from a neighbor.

Sheriff Ellis said officers had been told of ill feeling existing between Robinson and negroes living nearby.

APR 2 1935

Challenge to the Kingfish

In Arkansas a Negro preacher, the Rev. T. A. Allen, is found murdered, in his pockets papers indicating that he was helping to organize the share-croppers.

The Sheriff says, "I guess he probably was killed by some plantation owners" and the tone is the tone of "I guess we may have rain tomorrow."

In the lapel of the dead man's coat was a Huey Long button, "Every Man a King." What is the Kingfish going to say about this murder?

Our guess is, and we hope the guess is wrong, that the Kingfish will say nothing whatsoever about this murder, as he has said nothing whatsoever about the share-cropper.

Information of the terror raging in Arkansas was given Huey Long by Washington correspondents weeks ago, in the belief that he would use it against Senator Robinson.

Robinson of Arkansas and Long are bitter enemies. Conditions in Arkansas are no credit to Robinson. Long attacked Robinson, BUT KEPT SILENT ON THE ARKANSAS SHARE-CROPPER.

It's easy to promise the sky. It takes courage to talk turkey. Huey is going to make every man a king, but he has said nothing so far about the underpaid Southern worker or the starving Southern share-cropper.

Huey, in his answer to the Post, hadn't even heard of the textile strike in Georgia or of his friend Governor Townsend's concentration camps.

Probably Huey "haint heard nothin'" 'bout the share-cropper, neither.

NEGRO GIVEN 15 YEARS

Sentenced In Shooting Of Deputy Last February

DE QUEEN, Ark., May 21.—(AP)—O. J. Cummins, Little River County negro, was sentenced today when he pleaded guilty to an assault with intent to kill charge in connection with the wounding last February of Deputy Sheriff Willard Locke.

He entered his plea before Circuit Judge A. P. Steel.

Sheriff J. D. Sanders said that Cummins shot Locke when the officer questioned him about the robbery of a home near Richmond. The negro fled, but was located at Fort Dodge, Iowa, last week.

FARMER ARRAIGNED IN NEGRO'S MURDER

70-Year-old Sharecropper's Slaying Is Described By Witnesses

PARKIN, ARK., May 24.—(AP)—The slaying of a 70-year-old negro sharecropper was described by witnesses in a magistrate's court today as the negro's employer was arraigned on a charge of first degree murder.

The farmer, listed as Aubrey Lancaster, about 40, himself a renter, was accused of killing the negro, Tom Williams, Wednesday when he found him "loafing." Lancaster offered no evidence at the preliminary hearing. He entered a formal plea denying the charges. Refused bond, he was taken to jail to await action by the Cross County Grand Jury in September.

James Robertson, deputy prosecuting attorney, said Lancaster rented some land about four miles south of Parkin. The negro, Robertson said, farmed part of this land for Lancaster on a "share" basis.

Another negro sharecropper, Andrew Simmons, was killed here yesterday. Officers quoted Walter Kennedy, a plantation manager, as saying he shot Simmons in self-defense when the negro attacked him with an iron bar.

Describing Lancaster's hearing, Robertson said witnesses testified William's sons were at work on the farm Wednesday and Williams came to Marked Tree where he was seen by Lancaster.

"Witnesses testified Lancaster approached the old negro and demanded to know why he wasn't at work on the farm," Robertson said. "They said Lancaster kicked the negro, and then shot him three times." The shooting occurred in front of a store.

Officials said the case had no connection with recent activities of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, which recently removed its headquarters to a Tennessee farm, near Memphis. Union organizers said they were forced out of Poinsett County, Arkansas by "a reign of terror" against them.

H. L. Mitchell, executive secretary of the sharecropper union, said at Memphis he did not know Williams. He did not recall him as a member of the union.

The union is having its internal troubles at Memphis as a result of a disagreement between Mitchell and W. H. Stultz, the union president. The "executive council" has repudiated Stultz and placed E. B. McKinney, negro, at the head of the union, although Stultz has not relinquished his title.

HIGH COURT REDUCES SENTENCE OF DEATH

Life Terms of Two Affirmed by Arkansas Justices

NEGRO GIVEN 21 YEARS

Capital Punishment Regarded as Too Severe Because of Conflicting Testimony—Convicted in Brakeman Slaying

By The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, May 20.—The Arkansas Supreme Court reduced the death sentence of a negro to 21 years' imprisonment today and affirmed the life sentences of two other men.

The sentence of Buford Nelson for the murder of his wife, Sue Wilson, who was drowned near Newport, was affirmed as was the life sentence of Paul Nelson for the robbery slaying of B. F. Mitchell, also near Newport.

Investigated Fire

The court said that due to conflicting testimony surrounding the slaying of A. Pollack, a railroad brakeman, a jury in Monroe circuit court had meted out too severe a sentence for Green Phillips, negro, and the court reduced his death sentence to 21 years' imprisonment. Pollack was slain when he went into a freight car to investigate a small fire.

The following opinions were delivered in proceedings had in the supreme court today:

JOHNSON, C. J.: Clyde Law vs. E. R. Wynn, administrator, from White chancery; reversed and remanded. Butler, J., dissents.

SMITH, J.: Paul Nelson vs. State, from Jackson circuit; affirmed.

Home Life Insurance Co. vs. Ethel E. Stephens, from Howard circuit; reversed and dismissed.

HUMPHREYS, J.: Hartman-Clark Bros. Co. vs. Morris Melton, from Woodruff circuit; affirmed.

MEHAFFEY, J.: Green Phillips vs. State, from Monroe circuit; modified and affirmed.

M'HANEY, J.: Buford Nelson vs. State, from Jackson circuit; affirmed.

BAKER, J.: Trinity Farm Construction Co. vs. A. F. Brannan, from Mississippi circuit; reversed and dismissed.

ORDERS PER CURIAM

Aurellus Debin vs. The Texas Company, from Dallas circuit; rehearing denied.

Interstate Life & Accident Co. vs. George Lange, from Pulaski circuit; rehearing denied.

Fidelity & Deposit Co. of Maryland vs. George G. Brazier, from Scott circuit; rehearing denied.

Virgie M. Shepherd vs. D. Hopson, from Clay chancery; motion to dismiss appeal, denied.

Checker Cab & Baggage Co. vs. Perry Harrison, from Pulaski circuit; motion for

rule requiring clerk to approve bond, denied. W. E. Word vs. Frances M. Sparks, from White chancery; submitted on rehearing. L. W. Baldwin vs. L. E. Cobb, from White circuit; submitted on rehearing.

Charlie Parker vs. Pace & Davis, from Pulaski circuit; appellant given one week for brief on rehearing.

J. D. Williams vs. J. H. Moore, from Conway chancery; submitted on motion.

Lewis W. Cherry vs. R. E. Overman, Mayor, from Pulaski chancery; advanced and set for June 10.

Little Rock North Heights Road Improvement Districts 27 and 28 vs. State ex rel. Attorney General, from Pulaski chancery; advanced and set for June 10 for oral argument.

Lawrence Morrison and Sam Neely vs. State, from Pulaski circuit; appeal dismissed for non-compliance with Rule 10.

Arkansas Quick Silver Co. vs. Dexter Bush, Judge, prohibition to Clark circuit; settled and appeal dismissed.

SUBMISSIONS

Mary J. Campbell vs. Clem Carlisle, from Washington chancery.

Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. vs. Don L. Weathersby, from Pulaski circuit.

Robert P. Woods vs. C. E. Spann, Trustee, from Jefferson chancery.

Reserve Loan Life Insurance Co. vs. Desiree Miller Compton, from Pulaski circuit.

George W. Donaghey vs. Marion Wasson, from Pulaski chancery.

State ex rel. J. W. Trimble vs. T. H. Kantas, from Washington chancery.

Harrow Smith vs. Refunding Board of Arkansas, from Pulaski chancery.

Board of Improvement, Street Improvement District No. 315 vs. Arkansas Highway Commission, from Pulaski chancery.

W. A. Rutherford vs. St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Batesville, from Independence circuit.

SHARECROPPER SLAIN, EMPLOYER ARRESTED

Had Accused Negro of "Loafing" on Job

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Plantation Manager Is Freed In Slaying

PARKIN, ARK., Sept. 17.—(P)—Justice of the Peace W. W. Hazzard acquitted Walter Kennedy, plantation manager, tonight of a charge of murder in connection with the fatal shooting last Tuesday of Andrew Simmons, a negro sharecropper.

Kennedy's plea of self-defense brought from the magistrate at the preliminary hearing a ruling of "justifiable homicide."

The defendant, a plantation manager for Dave Block, chairman of the Arkansas Highway Commission, testified that he shot Simmons as the negro was advancing on him with an iron bar.

He said the shooting occurred in the plantation office, a mile west of Parkin, following an argument over a farm cultivator.

"Andrew came to me complaining about the condition of his cultivator," Kennedy said. "I told him he could have his choice of two others. He wouldn't even look at those."

"I went on to dinner and then when I returned to my office he followed me. He reached for an iron bar from a farm implement and started for me. I shot him just as he advanced."

Dr. J. S. Miller, a Parkin physician, and four other witnesses upheld Kennedy's testimony.

Arkansas Child Attacked, Slain

Autopsy Shows Girl Was Assaulted, Neck Broken And Body Put In Creek

FORT SMITH, ARK., July 7.—(P)—Prosecuting Atty. Finis F. Batchelor said today an autopsy had disclosed that 14-year-old Mary Isabel Mahar, whose scantily clad body was found in a creek yesterday, had been attacked and her neck broken before she was thrown or fell into the stream.

Sheriff Fred Long said he was holding a Fort Smith youth booked as Clyde Trammell, 28, for investigation in connection with the girl's death and that he "probably would file charges tomorrow when a coroner's jury makes a report on its findings."

"Her neck was broken at the third

joint and there was no water in her lungs," Batchelor declared. "The girl was attacked, and it was the opinion of the doctors who performed the examination that Miss Mahar was dead before she hit the water."

"Trammell has told officers a half dozen conflicting stories and none of them jibe," Batchelor said. Long continued questioning the youth this afternoon while funeral was being held for the girl.

Trammell was taken into custody late yesterday shortly after the body of Miss Mahar was found in Clear Creek 20 miles north of here by Mrs. Agnes Minella, New York resident visiting in this vicinity. Mrs. Minella and her two children had gone to the creek on a sight-seeing trip.

Searching parties had sought Miss Mahar since July 4 when she disappeared while on a holiday outing with 16 others. Her outer clothing was found on the bank of the creek.

Sheriff Long said after finding of the body his investigation caused him to believe "some violence" was connected with the girl's disappearance. Dr. B. Bruce, of Alma, called a coroner's jury for an inquest at 2 p.m. tomorrow.

2 PERSONS ACCUSED IN DEATH OF GIRL, 14

Arkansas Officers Lodge Charge

Against Clyde Trammell, Dorothy Karpis

FORT SMITH, ARK., July 17.—(P)—Two persons were charged today with the swimming party slaying of 14-year-old Mary Isabel Mahar. 7-28-35

First degree murder charges were lodged against Clyde Trammell, 28, and Miss Dorothy Karpis, 16, in connection with the death of the girl whose partly clad body was found in a creek several days after she disappeared.

Miss Karpis, who had been under \$500 bond as a material witness in the case, was taken into custody this afternoon while Trammell was removed to a Little Rock jail for safekeeping.

"Death at the hands of a person or persons unknown" was the coroner's jury verdict in the death of Mary Isabel. Physicians said death was caused by a broken neck and that she was not drowned.

Officers theorized the girl had been slain and thrown into the creek. Miss Mahar disappeared July 4 while on a holiday outing in a party of 16 that included Trammell and the Karpis girl. Her body was found in Clear Creek 20 miles north of here two days later by a New York woman visiting in this area.

Trammell was taken into custody and has been held in jail since while officers pursued their investigation. He is a resident of Fort Smith and was employed by a motorcycle concern here.

The Karpis girl testified at the inquest that she and the Mahar girl went swimming in their underclothes and that Trammell found them in a secluded sec-

tion of the creek.

"If there was any foul play, she (Miss Karpis) did it," said Trammell in replying to the girl's charges. He quoted the Karpis girl as saying Miss Mahar had taken her "sweetie" and she was glad that she was dead.

AX MURDER ADMITTED BY ARKANSAS NEGRO Son of Ex-Magistrate Found Slain in Pine Bluff

PINE BLUFF, Ark., Sept. 18.—(AP)—Chief of Police Mel L. Galligher announced today the confession by a negro booked as Robert Lee to the ax slaying of Paul B. (Hunter) Stewart, about 35, whose hacked body was found several hours earlier. Also held for investigation in the killing, Chief Galligher said, is a negro woman booked as Florence Phumphrey.

The body of Stewart, identified by Galligher as the son of former Justice of the Peace Will Stewart of Altheimer, Ark., was found about 3:30 a.m. on the banks of the old Arkansas River channel in West Pine Bluff.

"Stewart went out to the negro's house last night," declared the officer. "They got to arguing and fighting. Lee confessed he took Stewart down to the river bank, killed him and threw the ax away." The death weapon was found near the scene.

Chief Galligher said he would file first degree murder charges against Lee.

Negroes Bound Over

FORDYCE, Ark., Sept. 23.—(AP)—Hoyle Benford and Buster Westbrook, negroes, were bound over to

action of the grand jury on charges of manslaughter today in connection with the death of Neal Hornaday, white farmer, last Friday. Hornaday's body, badly crushed and bruised, was found lying in the street Friday by A. L. Carraway, local Cotton Belt agent.

Mrs. F. Dancy Is Found Slain in D. C. Home

from American
Former Recorder

**Widow Also Crimi-
nally Assaulted.**

NEIGHBOR GIVES

POLICE A CLUE

Quizzer about Room

Being Sought.

(AFRO BUREAU)

WASHINGTON. — Police are seeking clues which will lead to the arrest of the fiend, who criminally attacked and murdered Mrs. Florence V. Dancy, of 2139 L Street, Northwest, 65-year-old widow of the late John C. Dancy, one-time District recorder of deeds, Friday night.

The body was found lying across the bed in a locked room of her house, by Detectives W. V. Christian and R. E. Talbot, both white.

They had been called to force the door of her room open when roomers of Mrs. Dancy complained that they had not seen her since Wednesday night.

Fought Assailant

Evidence that the aged widow had put up a fight with her assailant was borne out by marks of violence on her body. Scratches were on her face and her mouth was bloody. The clothes were partly torn from the body.

An examination by the coroner, Dr. A. McGruder MacDonald, white, revealed that she had been criminally attacked.

Neighbor Gives Clue

The only clue that the police

have was furnished by a neighbor. She said that a young man had called on her neighbor seeking a room, and was referred to Mrs. Dancy, Wednesday morning. He is said to have been turned down, and was seen to leave the house.

Later that day, the man was seen to return to Mrs. Dancy's, and according to information given the police by a roomer in the house

Mrs. Dancy commented to her when the man returned: "That man is back here again and I don't want to be bothered with him."

According to the roomer, Mrs. Dancy left the room and was not seen alive again.

Description Given

The man was described to police as being about thirty-five years of age, tall, of light complexion, well groomed, and polite. The description, police said, tallies with that furnished of the man suspected of murdering a Mrs. Shaed, a white school teacher, several months ago, in a manner similar to that in which Mrs. Dancy met her death.

The widow's husband died fourteen years ago. He was recorder of deeds from 1900 to 1910. During the administrations of Presidents Harrison and McKinley, he was collector of customs in Wilmington, N.C.

Reputed to Be Wealthy

When he died, he is said to have left his wife considerable property and money. However, she insisted on running a rooming house at the place where she was found murdered.

John C. Dancy, Jr., son of Mrs. Dancy, who is president of the board of commissioners of the Detroit House of Correction and executive secretary of the Detroit Urban League, arrived here on Sunday and will remain until Saturday.

Another son, Dr. Joseph P. Dancy, is a Detroit physician. Others surviving are: daughter, Mrs. Lillian Reed, of Salisbury,

N.C.; three brothers, Jesse Stevenson and George Stevenson, of Pittsburgh; and Eddie Stevenson, of Philadelphia.

Funeral services were conducted on Tuesday at Boyd's Funeral Home, Nineteenth and L Streets, Northwest, by the Rev. F. W. Alstork, of the Union Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church, of which she was a member.

Only relatives and close friends were admitted to the funeral. Burial was in Harmony Cemetery.

Killings - 1935

Florida

TWO NEGROES HELD IN CAMILLA SLAYING

CLEARWATER, FLA.
SUN

JAN 24 1935

Swift Justice

Arrests at Jacksonville and
Thomasville Follow Kill-
ing of Garageman.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Jan. 15.—
(P)—Charged with killing J. E. Norris,
a garage proprietor, in Camilla, Ga.,
Saturday night, a negro listed as Bert
Jones has been turned over by local
police to Sheriff Baggs, of Mitchell
county, Georgia.

The negro was arrested here for
driving an automobile without a li-
cense tag. On checking the ownership
of the car, officers found it belonged
to Jones and that it was
stolen by a negro who killed Norris.

TWO NEGROES DIE FOR KILLING ATHLETE

RAIFORD, Fla., Jan. 22.—(P)—
Two negro youth paid with their lives
today for the holdup murder of Carl
Schumann, 25-year-old former univer-
sity of Florida star football player.
Thomas Jefferson, 22, and Fred An-
derson, 24, were executed in the elec-
tric chair here a little more than two

FLORIDA TO EXECUTE TWO NEGROES TODAY

RAIFORD, Fla., Jan. 21.—(P)—
Two negroes, Fred Anderson, 24, and
Thomas Jefferson, 22, are listed for
execution in Florida's electric chair
tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

They were convicted of first-degree
murder without a recommendation for
mercy following their arrest as the
slayers of Carl Schumann, 25-year-old
former University of Florida football
star, in a drugstore holdup at Jack-
sonville on the night of November 11.

TWO negroes two months ago murdered a man in Jack-
sonville. They were arrested, tried, convicted and last
Tuesday they were executed in the electric chair at Raiford

Swift justice that, so swift as to be exceptional, attract-
ing state-wide attention. And little wonder. Contrast this
case with the Jeffcoat case. Jeffcoat killed his wife. The
Clearwater police arrested him, he confessed and was sen-
tenced to death, all in a few weeks' time. Then the legal
horseplay began and for two and a half years the case
dragged from court to court. In the end justice triumphed,
but it was a justice so long delayed that its restraining in-
fluence upon the murder-minded probably was not great.

When the kind of justice seen in the Jacksonville case
becomes the rule and not the exception—then will come a
drop in the murder rate and thoughts of lynchings will

pass from the minds of men
MIAMI, FLA.
HERALD

MAR 8 1935

UGLY CHARGE

IT IS an ugly charge made by
International Labor Defense
headquarters in New York when
Governor Sholtz is importuned
to release four negroes, convicted
of murder in Broward county
immediately, on the ground they
are victims of a "frame-up."

In the first place, the officer
writing the letter for the or-
ganization shows an abysmal ig-
norance of the processes of
American courts when she de-
mands of the governor, without
further ado, to turn the con-
victed negroes free on the mer-
say-so of a group a thousand
miles away from the scene of
the killing and unfamiliar with

the court proceedings during and
after their conviction.

It is more than two years since
the negroes were convicted in
the Circuit court of the neigh-
boring county of the murder of
Robert M. Darsey, Pompano mer-
chant. Every legal step has been
taken to prevent the men from
going to the electric chair. Twice
the Broward court, once before
the presiding judge and again
before a jury, has held confes-
sions used against them were
not obtained through duress and
violence.

No disturbance of any sort
marked the trial and subsequent
hearings for the negroes. The
whole procedure has been orderly
in every way and conducted in
the highest traditions of Amer-
ican court procedure. Whether
the negroes are guilty or not of
the crime of which they have
been convicted and for which

they have been sentenced to die,
the charge of frame-up against
the officials of Broward county
should be substantiated in the
courts by the International
Labor Defense before it demands
that the chief executive of the
state turn loose prisoners con-
victed of murder in due process
of law.

Resents Intrusion Of I.L.D. Into Florida Murder 'Frameup' Case

Attorney McGill Plans to Prove Confessions Were "Forced," But Says Outside Interference May Militate Against the Saving of 4 Innocent Men.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Mar. 14—Attorney S. D. McGill, chief counsel for the four Negro defendants accused of having killed a white fish dealer in Pompano, Fla., and who were forced to sign "confessions" of guilt after having been brutally beaten by officers of the law and those not officers, has protested against the intrusion of the International Labor Defense League into the case, claiming that influence of this kind will handicap him in his efforts to ultimately free the defendants whom many believe to be innocent.

A letter addressed to Governor Sholtz of this State last week from the International Defense League's New York Headquarters, demanded the immediate release of the boys. Referring to this act on the part of the New York organization, Attorney McGill stated:

"They can only do harm to our efforts. Seemingly that organization is seeking publicity with utter disregard to the serious consequences that may be resultant in so far as the welfare of my clients is concerned. Too, their outburst is ridiculous. How can the governor respect any such request as they have made? True we have been given a raw deal down in Broward County, but we propose to take this case back to the Supreme court. Hasn't the Supreme court of this State already found that those alleged confessions were obtained illegally? It is a travesty on justice that a local jury in Broward county should come back in the light of the Supreme court's findings and again declare those boys guilty. We are only now beginning this fight. Watch us from now on."

Killings-1935

General

NEW YORK TIMES

MAR 5 1935

OUR MURDER RECORD.

LOUIS I. DUBLIN and BESSIE BUNZEL, in the March Survey Graphic, have performed a useful service in bringing together in comprehensive form the major facts that are statistically known or ascertainable about the American homicide record. As even the casually informed know, that record is a shameful one. The victims of homicide in the United States number annually over 11,000 persons, or 9.2 out of every 100,000 of population. This rate in recent years has been more than three times that in Italy, which has the highest rate in Europe, eighteen times that of England, and twenty-nine times that of The Netherlands. The United States, moreover, is the only important country which shows more homicides in recent years than prior to the World War.

The exact causes of our shocking record are not easy to determine. The authors dispose of a few facile popular explanations. There is a connection between crime and poverty; but why should this particular crime be so much greater here than in other countries, which enjoy fewer material advantages than we do? When our bad record is ascribed to the lawlessness characteristic of a pioneer country, again the explanation does not tell us why recently settled countries, such as Australia and New Zealand, have rates respectively one-fifth and one-tenth of ours.

It has long been known that in spite of the undeserved fame of Chicago our highest murder rate has been in the South. The New England States have the best record, with a rate of 2.0. In Florida the rate reaches 26.4. In 1933 the dishonor of the highest rate for any city—59.5—fell to Lexington, Ky. These geographical discrepancies are in large part explained by the high homicide rate among Negroes. In the United States as a whole, during the five-year period 1928-30, the authors point out, more than eight times as many Negroes as white males were slain per unit of population and almost seven times as many Negro as white women. To what extent was this due to the killing of Negroes by other Negroes and to what

extent by the killing of white men? The authors are silent on this point, perhaps because they have no information on it. But they do point out that the highest Negro homicide rates are found, not in the South, but in the Middle West, with Missouri, Illinois, Ohio and Michigan the chief offenders."

What may be the true inferences from this record, and doubtless they are many, it is certain that the nation-wide campaign for crime prevention is a grim necessity.

One conclusion on which the authors are emphatic is that the sale of firearms must be restricted. About two-thirds of American deaths from homicide are due to the use of firearms. In England and Wales in 1932 only 13 per cent were caused by firearms, and in Germany, prior to the present régime, about 27 per cent.

ATLANTA, GA.
JOURNAL

MAR 7 1935

America's Homicide Rate

AMERICA'S excessive homicide rate is sometimes charged to the fact that ours was but recently a frontier land, where unsettled conditions and a spirit of adventure made for lawlessness. Yet, the rate in New Zealand is now only one-tenth of ours, and in Australia only one-fifth, both of which countries are still in the pioneering stage. Again, it is said that poverty induces crime. But why is it that there are proportionately more murders in the United States, where the level of living conditions is unusually high, than in some of the poorest countries of Europe?

In the March number of *Survey Graphic* there is an extensive study of the statistics on this problem. Nine and two-tenths out of every one hundred thousand of our population, or more than eleven thousand persons a year, are "victims of homicide." Three times the rate of Italy, eighteen times that of England, and twenty-nine times that of The Netherlands! Moreover, "The United States is the only important country which shows more homicides in recent years than prior to the World War,"—that colossal scapegoat on which we have been wont to cast the transgressions of our era. It appears further that while the American homicide rate is most marked among Negroes, "The

Killings - 1935

General.

VENTURA, CAL.
COUNTY STAR

SEP 20 1935

LIFE IS TOO CHEAP

ONE of the disheartening trends of modern times is a growing callousness to murder. We kill 30,000 innocent people every year on highways, and thousands of these are victims of murder—none the less murder because it was involuntary. Very seldom is any punishment meted out to highway killers, and when it is, it is usually the same penalty as that for being drunk and disorderly.

Hardly a week passes that an official—sheriff, constable or policeman—is not shot down in cold blood. In these cases, too, the assailant is seldom caught. When he is, public rage vents its feelings in lynching. Why? Mainly because the public doesn't trust the law to mete out justice.

Europe seems to be preparing again for mass murder—not for any logical reason, but simply to bolster up national pride and advance the fantastic ambitions of a handful of men—who will, however, not endanger themselves in the fighting. In America, we are dead set against a new war—but history does not offer much hope that we could not be excited into one in a very short time.

The world depends too much on the rule of violence instead of the rule of reason. Our highway toll is violence in its worst form; the assassinations of peace officers and subsequent lynchings, are violence; war is the supreme triumph of violence over reason.

We say that human life is the most precious thing on earth. Our actions belie our words. We need a new evaluation of life—a realization that it IS important; that taking it unnecessarily is a crime against society that merits drastic punishment.

Killings-1935.

Georgia.

NEGRO SUSPECT FREED IN SLAYING OF ROBERTS

Coroner Lays Killing of Atlanta Salesman to 'Persons Unknown'

A negro suspect, arrested yesterday in connection with the investigation of the murder of James Richard Roberts, 50-year-old Atlanta coffee and tea salesman, was released by detectives at 11 o'clock last night.

Police revealed they had nothing on which to hold the negro, who was arrested at noon yesterday, two hours before an inquest into the murder was held.

Following the inquest, held at the mortuary, of Awtry & Lowndes, Coroner Paul B. Donehoo announced that Roberts met death at "the hands of a person or persons unknown."

Roberts was killed at about 9:15 o'clock Tuesday night by a single charge from a shotgun fired by an unknown assailant just after he had parked his automobile in a garage in the rear of his apartment home at 318 Fourth street, N. E.

Physician Testifies.

At the inquest, Dr. J. C. Blalock, county physician, who performed an autopsy Wednesday night, submitted his report that the shotgun charge which resembled "a fine bird shot," entered Roberts' left chest, striking the heart, and then passed into the right chest, causing collapse of the lung.

Detectives E. I. Hilderbrand and W. M. Holland, assigned to the investigation, did not reveal where the negro suspect, who gave his name as Will Thomas, of a Mitchell place address, was arrested.

According to the detectives, the slain man last week visited a brother, who is employed at the Bellwood prison camp, from which Thomas was released last Monday.

The detectives learned that Roberts displayed a large sum of money in front of the negro, and thus he was suspected of perhaps having some knowledge of the crime. He was released for want of prosecution.

Roberts' Watch Found.

Seriously handicapped by lack of clues, investigators yesterday lost a faint clue when members of the slain man's family revealed that Roberts' watch, at first believed stolen by the slayer, was found in possession of a friend.

The slain man's wallet, containing little or no cash, was missing, however, lending credence to robbery as the motive for the killing.

Funeral services for Roberts will be held at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon at the chapel of Awtry & Lowndes.

with the Rev. W. H. La Prade officiating. Burial will be in Greenwood cemetery.

Roberts is survived by his wife; a son, James Richard Roberts Jr.; two daughters, Miss Virginia Roberts and Miss Patsie Roberts; six brothers, W. H. and T. E., both of Atlanta; J. H., of Decatur; C. G., F. K. and E. H., all of Dallas, Texas, and two sisters, Mrs. E. T. Smith and Miss Lida Roberts, both of Oklahoma City, Okla.

1 KILLED, 2 WOUNDED IN GWINNETT AFFRAY

Tenant Farmer Arrested by Officers Probing Death of Charles Helton.

A Gwinnett county farmer was shot and killed and his father and another farmer were wounded yesterday morning in a shooting affray on a farm three miles north of Duluth, on the old Duluth highway.

The dead man was Charles Helton, 38. He and his father, John H. Helton, 65, well-known farmer, were taken to Grady hospital, suffering from pistol and gunshot wounds, shortly after the shooting at about 8:30 o'clock.

The younger Helton, who was shot in the head, died in the hospital at about 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon. His father is in serious condition, suffering from wounds in the stomach. Joe Thompson, tenant farmer on the farm of J. A. Payne, was slightly wounded in the right arm.

He was treated at Gainesville hospital, and later lodged in the Gwinnett county jail at Lawrenceville. He was taken into custody by Sheriff C. F. Greswell and Deputy Sheriff Henry Hutchins.

According to police, the shooting climaxed a quarrel which began Friday night. The Heltons, accompanied by the younger Helton's wife, went to the Thompson place on the Payne farm yesterday morning.

There, according to police, heated words ensued and the younger Helton allegedly fired at Thompson, who then ran into his home, secured weapons and fired at the other men.

Helton's wife, the mother of a 16-months-old girl, called police, and the injured men were taken to hospitals. Police said cause of the quarrel was not learned.

Besides his wife, father and mother, the younger Helton is survived by a brother, Henry Helton.

The Heltons are owners of extensive farm acreage and long-time residents of Gwinnett county.

2 HALL OFFICERS FACE MANSLAUGHTER COUNT

Deputies Are Bound Over in Killing of Farmer at Lula.

GAINESVILLE, Ga., Dec. 21.—(AP) Peace Justice Dan Mooney said sheriffs' deputies Lee Land and J. C. Smith were bound over to superior court today on charges of involuntary manslaughter following a committal trial in connection with the death of Jerry Hawkins, a farmer.

Bonds were set at \$1,000 each. The next term of Hall superior court convenes January 20.

The deputies were charged with murder in a warrant sworn out by Charley Hawkins, son of Jerry Hawkins, who died November 25, Mooney said, of pistol wounds received November 17.

Mooney said the prosecution charged Hawkins and his son were shot by the officers when the latter attempted to search the farmer's automobile at his home at Lula.

The officers testified they were searching for liquor and that the elder Hawkins drew a gun and attempted fire upon them. They also testified that Charley Hawkins approached the car from the house and leveled a rifle at them.

Charley Hawkins is recovering from a pistol wounds in the leg, a physician testified.

Killings. 1935.

Georgia.

NEGRO SHOT BY POLICE IS STILL UNIDENTIFIED

**Alleged Taxicab Theft Led
to Killing; Another Dies
of Wounds.**

Police are seeking the identity of the negro who was shot and killed by officers about 1 o'clock yesterday morning after he, and a companion who escaped, allegedly stole a taxicab at McDaniel and Rockwell streets northwest.

The death of the negro marked the third this month in Atlanta and vicinity. A negro being instantly killed at 1 o'clock Monday night by his intended victim and another negro dying early yesterday morning in Grady hospital from wounds suffered November 2 in a gun battle with police.

According to police, the unidentified negro was shot through the heart by Radio Patrolman E. T. Payne when the negro ignored his command to halt. He was pronounced dead on arrival at Grady hospital, and was still unidentified at a late hour last night.

Radio Patrolman Payne, with Radio Patrolman C. W. Cartwright, began the chase for the negroes when they were called to McDaniel and Rockwell streets, N. W., where Plez Harris, 24, negro, cab driver, told them two armed negroes stole his cab.

The officers "spotted" the cab at Chestnut and Beckwith streets, S. W., and followed it to West Mitchell street, where the negroes leaped from the vehicle and ran. The cab struck a parked truck, inflicting slight damage.

The chase then began on foot, Radio Patrolman Payne pursuing one of the negroes across Hunter street at Raymond. The negro ran into an alley near-by, and when the officer commanded him to halt, he failed to do so and was shot.

The cab driver identified the negro at the hospital as one of the two negroes who had taken the cab from him.

The other negro's death occurred about 7 o'clock Monday night when he attempted to hold up M. F. Rogers, attendant at a filling station on Memorial drive, two miles beyond Avondale. He was identified as Hubert Durden, of 1550 Foote street, northeast.

Oscar McGee, who was wounded in a gun battle with Patrolmen R. E. Carroll and J. S. Tuggle, died early yesterday morning in Grady hospital. The negro was shot when he opened fire upon the officers, who sought to arrest him, according to police.

Georgia Officer Slain By Negro

SPARTA, Ga., Nov. 17.—(P)—Motorcycle Policeman M. L. Stafford, 25, was shot to death in the street here today by one of four negroes he halted in an automobile and tonight Mayor Harry Vinion said feeling was "running very high" as the slayer was hunted. Two of the negroes were captured after the slaying but neither of them was the slayer, Mayor Vinion said. The Mayor said the streets of the downtown section were crowded with angry residents and that a posse of several hundred had joined with police and sheriff's officers of three counties to hunt for the negroes.

Whereabouts of the two negroes taken into custody was kept secret as a matter of precaution, he said.

Mayor Vinion said Stafford had halted the negroes' car on suspicion that they were drinking. The four got out and were lined up beside the automobile. As the officer talked to the others, one of the four shot him in the head.

One negro fled in the automobile and the three others struck out across the fields. The negro in the car was speedily captured and one of the others was taken in a short time later. The slayer, however, and the fourth negro gave officers a slip in the swamps near here.

**SPECIAL TERM CALLED
TO TRY SPARTA NEGRO**

SPARTA, Ga., Nov. 18.—(P)—A special term of the Hancock county superior court will convene November 23 to try a negro booked as Winton Boyer for the Sunday slaying of M. L. Stafford, Sparta policeman.

Judge James B. Park of the Ocmulgee circuit, called the special term late yesterday after funeral services for the slain officer had brought together hundreds of friends from this and near-by counties.

Boyer is in the Bibb county jail at Macon for safe keeping. He was captured by a posse late Sunday night several hours after the shooting and was taken at once to Macon for safe keeping.

Marietta, Ga., Cobb County Times
November 14, 1935

Intelligent Justice Ruled This Trial

THE County of Cobb has a right to be proud of its judicial authorities for the intelligent fashion in which the trial of one John Willie White, negro, was conducted Tuesday in superior court.

The charge against the negro was murder—in fact, the brutal murder of two white men—but the court viewed the case with the same calm and dispassionate manner with which it ordinarily handles even the most trivial of cases. Attorneys for the defense and for the state were more than ordinarily careful in making out their cases. The prosecution indulged in very little appeal to emotion or prejudice, but built their evidence on facts from the mouths of many witnesses. The defense, by cross-examination of witnesses and by the defendant's own unsworn statement, fulfilled their duties as counsel in a worthy and creditable manner.

In a South which has become infamous in the eyes of other sections for its racial prejudice—unjustly so, we admit—the trial stands out as a shining example of intelligently administered justice. The crowd at no time showed any disposition to upset the dignity of the courtroom by unseemly demonstration. Quietness and respect dominated the atmosphere. When the verdict was brought in, there was no show of emotion from anyone. Scarcely an expression changed, for everyone who had been in the courtroom was impressed with the seriousness of the task which the machinery of law was doing.

The judge pronounced the sentence—death—after allowing the defendant his usual opportunity for a statement. The doomed negro was led out between two officers and it was all over. The audience remained still and subdued until the judge calmly excused them.

The Times commends Judge J. H. Hawkins and all the officers of the court for the able and dignified manner in which they handled the trial and wrote into the history of justice in this county a glowing page. Would that such steady hands always held the scales of justice!

NEGRO IS GIVEN DEATH SENTENCE

Hancock County Citizens
Praised by Judge Park for
'Law Abiding Spirit'

SPARTA, Ga., Nov. 20.—(P)—Citizens of Hancock county were praised for their "law-abiding spirit," and Judge James B. Park as a Negro, lynch law was condemned today by charged with slaying a policeman, was convicted and sentenced to die Dec. 20.

The comments of the 83-year-old jurist, who has presided over the Ocmulgee superior court circuit for nearly 24 years, were made after the jury had brought in its verdict, and the Negro was taken from the courtroom by Sheriff R. C. Wiley.

The defendant, Winton Boyer, was charged with shooting Policeman M. L. Stafford, 25, after the officer had stopped a motor car carrying a group of Negroes, to determine if they were sober.

"Lynch law never has accomplished what it was intended to accomplish," the judge told the orderly crowd in the courtroom.

"Lynch law breeds disrespect for law. It has a demoralizing effect on any community in which it occurs."

"This case has been tried according to the laws of the state of Georgia."

"Throughout the trial there has been perfect order."

"This is the only way to preserve the laws of the land—to let the courts handle the work for which they were established."

"Orderly procedure makes for better law enforcement. It has a salutary effect on the nation as a whole."

Boyer was taken to the Bibb county jail at Macon for incarceration pending his transfer to the state prison at Milledgeville.

One of the occupants of the motor car from which the policeman was shot testified that Boyer was the slayer. Officers said others in the car also named him as the man who fired on the policeman here Nov. 17.

It had been suggested that national guard protection might be needed at the trial, because of feeling against the defendant.

To an inquiring newsman in Atlanta, the judge said over the telephone:

"Tell the governor for me that no national guardsmen will be needed here."

Given Death Sentence

Doomed to die on Dec. 20 for the pistol slaying of M. L. Stafford, Hancock county policeman, on Nov. 17, Winton Boyer, young Negro, was brought to the Bibb county jail early yesterday afternoon to await transfer to the death cell at Milledgeville.

Sheriff R. C. Wiley led the party of officers which brought Boyer here for safe-keeping. Included in the party were County Police Officer R. D. Smith, County Warden C. T. Wright and A. Baker, a bailiff.

Stafford was killed when he allegedly attempted to search a group of Negroes whom he had stopped on suspicion that they were drunk. Boyer's companions at the time of the shooting were held in jail in Hancock county following their indictment on misdemeanor charges, according to the officers who came here.

Killings - 1935

Georgia

NEGRO IS HUNTED IN AXE SLAYING

One Woman Dead, Another
Clings to Life; Deputies Seek
Earnest Moore, 28

Bibb and Monroe county officers last night continued their hunt for Earnest Moore, 28-year-old Negro, while one of his alleged victims miraculously clung to life in the Macon hospital and while another lay dead in a local Negro funeral home. Rosa Moore, wife of the suspected slayer and attacker, was reported in "very serious" condition at the Macon hospital last night from an axe wound in the head allegedly inflicted by her husband at their home Wednesday night about six miles from Lorane, in Monroe county.

Roberta Moore, wife of the suspected man's brother, was killed instantly by a shotgun charge Wednesday night.

Officers feared last night that Moore might try to carry out an alleged threat to kill his father-in-law, a Negro named Jackson, who lives a short distance from Rock Mill, and several trips were made there in an effort to locate the suspect.

Woman Left for Dead

Sheriff Carey Bittick of Monroe county, who was called to the scene of the killing Wednesday night, said yesterday he thought Rosa Moore was dead, since a part of her brain was lying on the floor of her home, and left her there during Wednesday night. When investigators returned yesterday morning they discovered that a spark of life still lingered in her body, and she was rushed to the hospital.

Sheriff Bittick said there were no witnesses to the attack on Rosa Moore, but that, from appearances, she was struck with the axe while in bed, possibly asleep. He said several witnesses to the slaying of the other woman reported to him that Moore went to her house, about 100 yards from his own, and after firing a change of shot through the door, shot and killed his fleeing sister-in-law instantly.

Ill Feeling Existed

Bibb officers, cooperating with Sheriff Bittick in trying to locate the suspected slayer, recalled yesterday that Moore was jailed here July 17 and that efforts to have a lunacy hearing before the ordinary of Monroe county failed because of the intervention of white friends, who characterized him "as the best Negro in the county," and who denied that he was insane. Moore

was released from jail here July 22, the records show.

Ill feeling over his being placed in jail led to threats being made, Sheriff Bittick said he was told.

TRIAL FOR MURDER Negro Charged With Slaying White Man

Charged with the ax slaying of a white man, John Henry Osborne, negro, will go on trial for his life today in Fulton superior court. The state accuses Osborne of killing A. M. Moon, of Atlanta, with an ax on August 18 at the negro's home off Cascade road.

Assistant Solicitor Quincy Arnold will prosecute Osborne in Judge Virlyn B. Moore's court.

Moon and the negro got into an argument at Osborne's house after the white man's car had broken down on the road nearby, it was said. The negro was arrested a few days after the slaying when he returned to his home after escaping, following the arrest at Moore's Station near here.

KILLER ABSOLVED Negro Who Attacked in Self- Defense, Freed

John Henry Osborne, negro, was found not guilty of the murder of A. M. Moon yesterday by a jury in Fulton superior court.

H. A. Allen, defense attorney, produced witnesses who testified that Moon attacked Osborne in the yard of the negro's home off Cascade road August 16, and that the defendant killed the white man with an ax in self-defense.

Assistant Solicitor Quincy Arnold told the jury if it believed Osborne was acting in self-defense and was justified in killing Moon to save himself, then he should be freed.

Osborne said he had been to a funeral on the day of the killing and returned home to find Moon at his house. The two quarreled, he said, and the white man struck the negro with a stick of wood. Whereupon Osborne said he hit Moon over the head with an ax.

The jury was out less than half an hour.

TWO NEGROES KILLED, ASSAILANTS, ESCAPE

An argument police said started in a crap game last night in Randue's alley ended fatally for Bishop Daniel, negro, of 159 Piedmont avenue. Police are looking for his alleged assailant, another negro, Daniel was shot through the heart and neck.

Edward Middlebrooks, 16, was shot and died yesterday in what police described as a rifle and rock battle between Middlebrooks and another negro who accused him of striking his sister. The shooting took place on Crew street. Police are seeking Middlebrooks' alleged assailant.

SHERIFF OF LAURENS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED

W. H. Adams Is Shot by
Negro He Was Attempt-
ing To Arrest.

DUBLIN, Ga., Oct. 28. (AP)—Sheriff W. H. Adams, of Laurens county, was shot and seriously wounded as he was attempting to make an arrest at Moore's Station near here today and a posse was immediately organized to search for a negro who, the deputies said, did the shooting.

Deputy Sheriff B. F. Branch said the sheriff was shot as he attempted to arrest a negro named by Branch as Ernest Clarke at a negro residence.

"We were waiting for the negro to arrest him on a charge of shooting two negro women at a church near here last night," Branch said.

He said he and two other deputies were with the sheriff and that all of them were waiting at a negro house where Clarke had left his automobile.

The officers were deployed around the house, Branch said, when the negro came up in the semi-darkness. As Sheriff Adams flashed a light on him and spoke, Branch said the negro jerked out a pistol and fired twice.

NEGRO MAN HELD IN GAY SLAYING

Prisoner Arrested in Florida
Charged With Moultrie
Killing

MOULTRIE, Ga., Oct. 29. (AP)—"Somewhere in Georgia" a negro was held today for the slaying of Otis Gay, Moultrie white man, the ending a search that began October 15, and which resulted in the death of another negro October 16 at the hands of a posse of unidentified persons.

Sheriff T. V. Beard, returning here from Florida, announced the negro, listed as John Henry Sloan, had been placed in jail "somewhere in Georgia" for safe keeping, and would be charged with the death of Gay, and assault with intent to murder Gay's woman companion. The arrest was made in Havana, Fla., yesterday.

Gay and a young woman both were struck by a charge from a shotgun as they sat on an embankment near here the evening of October 15. The young woman was injured slightly.

SPARTA OFFICER SLAIN BY NEGRO

Accused and Five Associates
Are Arrested After Sunday
Night Man-Hunt

SPARTA, Ga., Nov. 17. (AP)—A posse led by officers late tonight captured a Negro accused of killing a motorcycle policeman here and hurried him away to an undisclosed jail for safekeeping.

City Clerk A. J. Berry said the accused Negro was listed as Winston Boyer.

Five other Negroes are being held in jail here as witnesses.

The motorcycle policeman, M. L. Stafford, 25, was shot down as he halted a party of Negro motorists.

The city clerk said that the accused Negro was found hiding in the chimney of a Negro house about twelve miles from town. A pistol, he added, was found in his possession.

Five of the six Negroes in the party, the police department said, had been placed in the Sparta jail before midnight.

The Negroes captured were questioned separately by officers and each, the police said, blamed the slaying on the same man. The officers said they did not believe the Negroes in jail here were in danger since they had co-operated willingly with the officers and that it was hoped there would be no display of violence.

Mayor Binion said Policeman Stafford had halted the Negroes' car on suspicion that they were drinking.

The six got out and were lined up beside the automobile. As the officer talked to the others, one of the party shot him in the back of the head.

One Negro fled in the automobile and the five others struck out across the fields.

The Negro in the car was speedily captured and one of the others was taken a short time later.

Joining Hancock county officers in the hunt along with private citizens were city police and sheriff's department representatives from Greene, and Washington counties.

MARIETTA NEGRO SENTENCED TO DIE

Slayer of Swanson Is To Be
Electrocuted Decem-
ber 20.

MARIETTA, Ga., Nov. 12. (AP)—Will White, negro, today was convicted of the murder of O. C. Swanson and sentenced to die in the elec-

tric chair December 20. The trial lasted only a few hours and was presided over by Judge J. H. Hawkins.

Swanson, a filling station proprietor, was killed October 5 when two negroes held up his station. Another negro listed as Horace Parker is being held as White's accomplice and will be tried tomorrow.

White also is charged with the murder of W. P. Smith, a chair factory watchman, in another robbery.

'PEPSI' WATCHMAN

IN ATLANTA SLAYS
YOUTH OF 12 YEARS

Boy Was Found Playing
Hide and Seek on Com-
pany's Property, That's
All

Atlanta, Ga.—(CNA)—Clyde Mul-
en, 12, played his last game of
hide-and-seek Sunday, for a bullet
from a white watchman's gun

brought down the boy. Clyde, who lived at 560 Old Wheat St., thought he knew a swell

hiding place. He would climb the fence of the Pepsi-Cola Company playmates would peer in every al-
ley and hall in search for him. It would be great fun.

But, private property must be safe-guarded." As Clyde perched on the fence, the Pepsi-Cola watch-

man fatally shot him. Clyde died in the Grady Hospital three days later.

No investigation, no charges, no indictment was made by the Atlanta officials against the company. The company is rich and money inter-
ests control Atlanta officialdom.

The local press has of course been silent on the murder.

TRIAL OF NEGRO

BEGINS AT SPARTA

Macon Telegraph
Macon, Ga.
 Evidence Completed in Slaying

of Policeman; Everything's
 'Quiet and Peaceful'

11-26-35

SPARTA, Ga., Nov. 25 (P)—Evidence was completed late today in the trial of Winton Boyer, Negro accused of killing a motorcycle policeman. The case was expected to reach the jury tomorrow morning after the charge by Judge James B. Park.

In spite of early feeling caused by the slaying of the officer, H. L. Stafford, the trial was held under quiet and orderly circumstances after a brief speech by the judge.

In his talk, he pointed out the constitutional assurances of impartiality toward all persons and their rights to fair trial. At its close he asked all those "willing to see a fair and orderly trial to stand up."

"Every man in the courtroom," Judge Park said, "stood up."

"Under the constitution," he told his hearer, "no man must be deprived of his life, liberty or pursuit of happiness except by due process of law. As long as the constitution stands this precept must be held."

A special court session was called to handle the case. Boyer was indicted by the grand jury. Five other Negroes were brought into the case as material witnesses. No charge was made against them.

The state charged Motorcycle Policeman Stafford was shot down after he had halted a party of Negroes in an automobile. Officers said companions of Boyer accused him of the shooting.

Boyer was found late that night—Nov. 17—hiding in a chimney about 12 miles from the city and City Clerk A. J. Berry said a pistol was found in his possession. The Negroes were held at Macon for safekeeping and returned here today.

Sheriff R. C. Wiley said everything was "quiet and peaceful" and that there was no excitement at the trial.

NEGRO GOES ON TRIAL IN SLAYING AT SPARTA

SPARTA, Ga., Nov. 25.—(P)—A jury was completed this afternoon for the trial of a Negro boy, Winton Boyer, 23, for the slaying of Police Officer H. L. Stafford on November 17. Making of testimony began this afternoon.

Sheriff R. C. Wiley said five Negroes alleged to have been in the automobile with Boyer at the time of the shooting would testify, in addition to witnesses necessary to establish the facts. Evidence needed to complete the case. There may be one or two other witnesses for the state. Boyer was indicted by the grand

jury this morning and arraignment was waived.

Judge James B. Park is presiding. Stafford was shot down as he halted a party of negro motorists. The negro defendant was found hiding in a chimney in a house about 12 miles from town and City Clerk A. J. Berry said a pistol was in the man's possession.

The officer had stopped the motor to determine if its occupants were sober. One of the negroes drew a revolver and shot Stafford three times. The defendant was taken to the Bibb county jail in Macon, along with five other negroes detained as material witnesses. The six were returned here today.

John Henry Doesn't Know He Is to Die for Slaying

That Mob in Moultrie Was Just

another Group of Tormentors to Him

Telegraph
 By FRANK HAWKINS

John Henry Sloan, a husky 20-year-old Negro plowman who has been running from tormentors since he can "remember," is happy to be where he can run no further.

Fifteen days before Christmas—unsaid the Negro who doesn't fully realize how badly he needs them. There is no one to help him pray because what family there is he left behind in Havana when he moved to Moultrie in 1929. He is not married, but he has a girl.

John Henry fondly recalled last night that it was this girl who cooked the rabbits and birds which he had shot on the afternoon before he shot Mr. Gay. "We ate those rabbits and birds," the Negro reported, "and then I started on up the road to return the gun," a single barreled .12-gauge gun which he had borrowed from a white friend.

"Some white men took in behind me and they chased me for about a mile. Folks has always chased me and when I saw this man on the bank near the road I thought he was going to chase me so I shot. I didn't aim to hit him and I didn't see no lady with him. After I shot I ran and took the gun home." The young woman was not injured.

"This is the first trouble I ever was in. They caught me down in Florida somewhere and took me to Albany. Then they slipped me into the jail at Moultrie late at night. They made me lie down in the car so I knew something was wrong."

John Henry learned what was wrong the next day when the mob gathered outside the courthouse. One look at this boy is assurance he won't forget what he learned.

For he hasn't stopped shaking yet. Even his broad shoulders and deep chest tremble incessantly as he haltingly relates the experience that took him from the humble farm-hand's existence to the moment when the state's troops were needed to hold back a fighting mob that demanded its own conception of justice.

There is little likelihood that John Henry's 150 pounds of bone and muscle will cease to quiver so long as he can clearly recall sounds of the mob that cried "there he is, get him."

And how did John Henry feel when he heard that? "Well, I tell you the truth," he said, "I felt every way but the right way. I didn't want these men to get me."

Guards Were First Rate
 Guardsmen treated him "first

rate," the Negro recalled, and "I was glad they were there. Yessir, they were first rate."

Through trembling lips the doomed Negro inhaled deeply from a cigarette and swore that never before had he had any experience with the law. He doesn't even know if he had a lawyer at the trial in Moultrie. The lawyer, incidentally, pleaded for a life sentence.

John Henry hasn't had any schooling, not even "the A, B, C's," he said last night, but he is a Baptist and a good one.

"Every night I say my prayers," John Henry doesn't know, or if he knows he will not admit it. And that is that he must take a trip to the electric chair.

"You know what you are in here for don't you John Henry?" the Negro was asked last night as he stood in the dimly lighted corridor just outside his narrow grey cell.

Told No Different
 "Yessir, boss," said John Henry, who can neither read nor write, "I thinks I'm in here for a life sentence." And no one told him differently.

It is possible that the young native of Havana, Fla., did not hear accurately as the court pronounced his doom. It is more probable that John Henry was too frightened to comprehend.

For he hasn't stopped shaking yet. Even his broad shoulders and deep chest tremble incessantly as he haltingly relates the experience that took him from the humble farm-hand's existence to the moment when the state's troops were needed to hold back a fighting mob that demanded its own conception of justice.

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Guards Were First Rate
 Guardsmen treated him "first

Killings - 1935

Georgia.

Telegraph
January 25, 1935

Ellaville People Are Commended

The calm and legal electrocution of Charlie Dodson, a Negro, at the state's prison farm last Monday is worthy of more than passing notice. He killed one of the state's police officers at Ellaville. The officer, William B. Souter, was worth a thousand such characters as Dodson, and the people of Ellaville felt that way about it, as they beheld the bullet riddled body of the officer. But they did the wise thing, the civilized thing—they respected their own laws and their own courts, and gave the murderer the benefit of a fair trial. Thus they have saved the good name of their own community and of the state of Georgia, and indeed of the whole South.

The people of this section are proud of their long lineage of the purest Anglo-Saxon strains. We often boast that we are pure stock, and that we have a background that cannot be claimed in any other section; but we have too often proved ourselves unworthy of our civilization. If we are the bravest and most chivalrous of peoples, we cannot afford to act like savages, no matter what the provocation.

We have an added responsibility in our stewardship over an inferior race. Whether we want the stewardship or not, it is ours to keep; and the day of accounting must come.

An Ellaville store was robbed on Christmas Eve night. The alert Policeman Souter quickly detected the robber, and went to arrest him. The Negro had the advantage and poured three bullets into the body of the courageous officer, producing instant death. The Negro disappeared, and reports reached The Telegraph from seemingly reliable sources that he had been carried away and lynched. Some people claiming to have been among the lynchers made the report.

This was sad news in the office of The Telegraph, for the paper's opposition to lynching the law is well known. No apology is made for the stand that it has taken on the subject. It is a crime against Georgia when Georgians throw their legal machinery into the discard and stain their hands with murderous blood.

It was with great rejoicing that news was later received that the responsible and law-abiding citizens of Ellaville had speeded the officer's murderer to Columbus jail for safe-keeping.

He was given trial on Dec. 31, and sentenced to death. He admitted in the death cell that he had killed the policeman. He paid the law's

penalty last Monday, Jan. 21.

It is easy to understand that a community wants to see punishment inflicted upon the slayer of one who is entrusted with protecting the peace and safety of the people, and who dies in the performance of duty; but there is always a right way and a wrong way; and it is comforting to know that Ellaville's people adopted the right way.

Georgia may have plenty of sins to answer for at the judgment bar, but lynching should forever cease to be one of them, and Ellaville has set a commendable example.

MURDER CHARGED IN DEATH OF NEGRO AT HOME OF BURNS

Fred Danielly, 29, "Pee Wee's" Lieutenant, Held for Shooting Aid of Underworld Character.

A man who gave his name as Fred Danielly, 29, of 93 Merritts avenue, N. E., was being held Sunday night in Fulton tower on a charge of murder in connection with the death early Saturday morning of Glen Sims, negro retainer of P. W. "Pee Wee" Burns, well-known underworld character.

Danielly was arrested shortly before noon Sunday and was being held as a material witness. He was taken to Fulton tower by Coroner Paul Donehoo. Two hours later a charge of murder was placed against him.

Atlanta detectives, not satisfied with the theory that Sims, who was educated and supported by Burns, had committed suicide, launched an investigation Saturday which Sunday resulted in the arrest of Danielly.

According to Detectives S. B. McGarity and A. G. Stone, Sims was seen to stagger from his basement room and collapse on the driveway at the apartment house at 63 Merritts avenue. A man identified to detectives as Danielly, witnesses stated, came from the basement room shortly

after the negro had fallen and walked away.

Lieutenant of Burns.

Danielly, recognized by police as a Willie Grimes, negro, has been given a 30-day respite by Governor Eugene Talmadge. He was to have been electrocuted yesterday. The governor's office said it had received a statement from the convicted men that Grimes had no part in the crime.

Burns, on his cot in the hospital, verified his wife's version of the shooting.

Hours after Burns had been admitted to the hospital, where it was reported he was taken by his negro servant, Sims, the negro was found by police in the driveway of the apartment house where Burns lives.

Suicide Theory Scouted.

The theory was advanced that the negro, grieving over his employer and benefactor, who he thought was dying from the shotgun wound, committed suicide. Chief of Detectives A. Lamar Poole scoffed at the suicide theory. Few negroes commit suicide, the chief said, and then only when pushed to the limit by ill health or some force which they do not understand.

An inquest will be held at 10:30 o'clock this morning at the Howard undertaking establishment. Coroner Donehoo announced. The inquest will be preceded by a post mortem at which the bullet will be extracted from the negro's body for comparison with another bullet fired from the .38-calibre pistol found beside the body of the negro.

2 Negroes Executed In Slaying at Weston

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., March 7. (P)—Two negroes convicted of the murder and robbery of Ed King, a shooting was "justifiable homicide." Acting Coroner Steve Watkins said testimony at the hearing was that The negroes were convicted at Pres-ton, Ga., in February 14.

R. H. Lawrence, superintendent of the prison, said that one of the men, D. W. Brown, confessed in the death cell to the robbery of the merchant and said Arthur Bell, alias Wilburn, struck King with a stick.

Brown was electrocuted first, Bell went immediately afterward. Lawrence said Bell claimed to the last that he was innocent.

A third man convicted in the case, Willie Grimes, negro, has been given a 30-day respite by Governor Eugene Talmadge. He was to have been electrocuted yesterday. The governor's office said it had received a statement from the convicted men that Grimes had no part in the crime.

Douglasville Killing Confessed by Negro

DOUGLASVILLE, Ga., March 7. Sheriff Mac Abercrombie tonight announced that Eddie E. Bowen, 22-year-old negro, had confessed the killing two weeks ago of Joe Carroll, of Carrollton, in a robbery attempt here.

Abercrombie said that Bowen had implicated Clifford Morris, another negro, but admitted he was in the actual shooting. Both were held in the county jail.

Bowen was arrested early today on suspicion. Authorities said he previously had served a chain gang sentence.

Bowen also told authorities that he had committed four burglaries of homes in the city in recent weeks.

NEGROES KILLED BY TWO OFFICERS

Thomas County Police Attacked While Investigating Alleged Assault on Woman

THOMASVILLE, Ga., April 8 (P).

Two officers investigating a reported attempt to assault a white woman were attacked in a farm house near Ochlocknee today and shot two Negroes to death and wounded a third.

The dead are Gent Garlin, elderly Negro, and his son, James Garlin.

Another son, Howard Garlin, was taken to a hospital here with a bullet wound in his neck.

A coroner's jury said the men fatally injured were shot by Deputy Sheriff Buck Collins, who acted in his "official duty," and that the shooting was "justifiable homicide."

Acting Coroner Steve Watkins said testimony at the hearing was that an unidentified negro attempted to attack a white woman near Ochlocknee yesterday afternoon, but fled when other persons appeared, and took refuge in Garlin's house. The suspect escaped as officers arrived at Garlin's house today, and bloodhounds were put on his trail.

The testimony, Watkins added, told of a fierce battle at the house when the officers appeared. Two Negroes attacked Collins, and Jailer W. I. Carter, who accompanied Collins to the house, shot one of the men, Watkins said. Collins got free from his assailants and shot two other men fatally.

Both officers were injured by blows. Collins was struck in the face with a poker, and Carter was beaten with a shotgun, used as a club.

Ochlocknee is about 12 miles north of here.

TWO NEGROES KILLED BY GEORGIA OFFICERS

THOMASVILLE, Ga., April 8. (P)—Two officers investigating a reported attempt to attack a white woman were assailed in a farm house near Ochlocknee today and shot two Negroes to death and wounded a third.

The dead are Gent Garlin, elderly negro, and his grown son, James Garlin. Another son, Howard Garlin, was taken to a hospital here with a bullet wound in his neck.

A coroner's jury said the men fatally injured were shot by Deputy Sheriff Buck Collins, who acted in his "official duty," and that the shooting was "justifiable homicide."

Acting Coroner Steve Watkins said testimony at the hearing was that an unidentified negro attempted to attack a white woman near Ochlocknee yesterday afternoon, but fled when other persons appeared, and took refuge in Garlin's house. The suspect escaped as officers arrived at Garlin's house today, and bloodhounds were put on his trail.

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Both officers were injured by blows. Collins was struck on the face with a poker, and Carter was beaten with a shotgun, used as a club. Ochlochnee is about 12 miles north of here.

POLICEMAN SLAYS

NEGRO WITH PISTOL

A negro who, after terrorizing the neighborhood, threatened to kill the patrolmen who had been called to quell him, was shot and almost instantly killed in an alley off Crew street yesterday morning by Radio Patrolman G. W. Mauldin.

The negro, Henry Williams, Mauldin reported, had a revolver in his hand when they met in the alley. He commanded them to drop the pistol and the negro waved it up and snapped it several times before the patrolman fired, sending five bullets into the negro's body.

NEGRO SHOTS YOUTH TO DEATH ON HIGHWAY

Seven Are Held at Jonesboro Following Killing

of Boy

Marvin Clower, 20-year-old Atlanta automobile plant worker, was shot and killed and two others narrowly escaped death early yesterday morning when a negro man fired at them as the culmination of a roadside argument in Clayton county.

Sheriff E. L. Adamson, of Jonesboro, said Clower was almost instantly killed.

Winfred Robertson, of Hampton, was wounded and a bullet cut through the clothes of a youth named Brown, but he was not hurt, the sheriff said.

Clower, who resided in Hampton, but worked in Atlanta, and several friends were riding in a car when they met a group of negroes going home from a party near the Clayton-Spalding county line several miles from Griffin. An argument developed and as a result a negro man drew a pistol and fired several times at the white youths. Clower died before he could be taken to the Griffin hospital. Robertson's wounds were treated there.

Sheriff Adamson arrested seven negroes, including two girls, who are held in Jonesboro as material witnesses.

The Clayton officer said the name of the killer was known and a search is being conducted for him.

Clower was the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Clower, of Hampton, and is also survived by a brother, Ray; Clower, and his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Conkle, of Lovejoy, Ga., and T. M. Clower, of Hampton, Ga. The funeral will be held at 2 o'clock this afternoon at the Lovejoy Methodist church and interment will be in the Hampton cemetery.

THREE NEGROES SLAIN NEAR CRAWFORDVILLE

CRAWFORDVILLE, Ga., June 6. (AP)—Three negroes were slain on a farm seven miles from here today and Sheriff R. M. Moore announced that he was seeking a fourth negro for the murders.

The Crawfordville Advocate-Democrat said the dead were Rose Cotton, her daughter, Tommie Cotton, and Rube Durham, and that the man being sought was Duke Lowe.

Reports here said the slayer went to the house where Rose Cotton lived called for her and shot her as she appeared in the yard. A neighbor, hearing the disturbance, rushed in and likewise was shot down. The daughter, Tommie Cotton, ran to seek assistance and was overtaken and slain with the gun butt. Her body was dragged to a porch, which was set on fire. The body was almost consumed by the flames.

3 MEN JAILED HERE IN HALL AX-KILLING

Ernest Ellis Accused of Being Instigator of Gainesville Slaying.

Charged with the ax slaying of a Hall county farmer, a white man and two negroes were being held yesterday in the Fulton Tower for safe-keeping.

The white man, booked as Ernest Ellis, was accused by the negroes, Dilmus Charles and John Harrison, as having instigated the murder of Walter Simpson, 67, a farmer living near Gainesville.

Simpson's body was discovered Sunday by a neighbor who called at his home. He had been dead since Friday, it was said. His body was mutilated and his head was crushed.

Hall county officers brought them here to safeguard them until they are arraigned in court. Ellis, a veteran of the World War, is said to have denied he was implicated in the slaying but admitted that he and Simpson had quarreled over a disputed land line. D. J. Hopkins, chief of police at Gainesville, arrested the negroes, Dilmus Charles, who was taken into custody first by the officer when another negro told the chief Charles "had a lot of money suddenly."

The negroes said Ellis was present when the slaying took place.

NEGRO DIES OF WOUND INFLECTED BY POLICE

Shot down by police Sunday night when he attempted to fight clear from an alley where he had been cornered after smashing the window of a variety store, George Taylor, negro, died yesterday at Grady hospital.

Brandishing a brick, Taylor rushed at the officers at the mouth of the blind alley in which he had been hiding. Patrolman H. L. Evans, who answered a radio car alarm to the scene, shot him through the abdomen as he attacked. The store was located at Fraser street and Georgia avenue.

Tifton Officer Is Shot by Negro

Whitehurst Brought to Macon; Assailant Is Killed

After thwarting a reported burglary, Jack Whitehurst, Tifton policeman, was rushed to the Middle Georgia hospital yesterday morning with a bullet-shattered bone in his arm. Physicians, however, said the wound was not serious.

Dispatches from Tifton said Mr. Whitehurst and W. H. Coleman, another officer, were taking Charlie Brown, Negro, to jail after the proprietor of a meat market assertedly had discovered Brown trying to break in his establishment.

The Negro is said to have snatched Mr. Whitehurst's revolver and fired once at him, then turning the gun on Mr. Coleman. The pistol is said to have snapped after wounding Mr. Whitehurst and this gave Officer Coleman time to pull his revolver. The Negro died with four bullet wounds in his body.

2 Gainesville Negroes Confess Ax Slaying

GAINESVILLE, Ga., July 7. (AP)—The body of William Simpson, 67, a farmer, was found at his home near here today and Sheriff L. L. Lawson later announced the arrest of two negroes who, he said, confessed they had slain the man Friday with an ax. The sheriff named the negroes as John Daniel and Dents Charles. Daniel lives here while Charles recently was employed by Simpson. A white man, booked as Ernest Ellis, also was taken into custody for questioning. Lawson said.

Simpson, a bachelor, lived alone. His body was found when a neighbor went to his house this morning. Sheriff Lawson said robbery was the motive for the slaying and that the negroes had about \$150 when arrested.

Negroes Confess Death of Farmer

GAINESVILLE, Ga., July 12. (AP)—Deputy Sheriff Marvin E. Lawson said today he had obtained a confession from Dents Charles and John Daniel, Gainesville Negroes, that they alone were to blame for the death of Walter Simpson, prominent Hall county farmer.

Immediately after signing of the confession yesterday, the officer said Ernest Ellis, young white man held in connection with the farmer's death, was freed. When arrested Sunday the Negroes admitted killing Simpson with an ax at his home last Friday, but each said Ellis instigated the crime.

A coroner's verdict laid the entire blame on the Negroes.

ORAN DODD, 32, HELD IN DEATH OF NEGRO

Murder Charge Filed After Peter Heath Dies of Bullet Wounds.

Denying charges that he fired a bullet that killed Peter Heath, negro, of Howard, Ga., a Garnett street Thursday night, Oran Dodd, 32, of 375 Whitehall street, surrendered to police yesterday and was charged by them with murder.

Dodd, police said, was named by W. H. Jones, of 114 Dill avenue, as the occupant of an automobile which drew alongside Jones' car on Garnett street between Central avenue and Pryor street and from which the bullet that fatally wounded Heath was fired. Miss Jane DeVore, of 214 Ponce de Leon, who was riding with Jones, narrowly escaped death in the shooting, a bullet clipping an earlobe from her ear.

Witnesses told police that the car from which the bullet was fired apparently was pursuing Jones' car. Jones later reported at police headquarters, naming Dodd as the man who fired the shot, according to officers.

ATLANTA ARRESTED IN DEATH OF NEGRO

LAGRANGE, Ga., July 23. (AP)—Deputy Sheriff F. V. Dollar tonight said a man identified by him as Louis Britt, 21-year-old Atlanta, was arrested today in Montgomery, Ala., in connection with the slaying of an Atlanta negro.

Deputy Dollar said Britt fired the shot to take him to Opelika, Ala., last Saturday and that the body of the negro, identified by Dollar as Fred Guffie, was found Sunday morning about 200 yards off the highway in Troup county between Hogansville and LaGrange.

Deputy Dollar said he had not arrived at a motive for the killing but would question Britt closely as soon as he could return the prisoner from Alabama.

ATLANTA IS CHARGED WITH DEATH OF NEGRO

LA GRANGE, Ga., July 23. (AP)—A man listed by Deputy Sheriff F. V. Dollar as Louis Britt, 21, of Atlanta, was brought to LaGrange today from Montgomery, Ala., in a warrant charged with murder of Fredman next week and return to Val Guffie, Atlanta, Mo.

Guffie had four wounds on the head, was found in his automobile just off the Atlanta highway between LaGrange and Hogansville early Sunday. His wife swore out a warrant against Britt and a woman, who was questioned by Dollar in Opelika, Ala. Dollar said the man listed as Britt came willingly to LaGrange, and had nothing to say about the charges.

Guffie's wife named Britt and the woman in Opelika as the persons who had hired Guffie to drive them to Gainesville last Friday.

THREE NEGROES HELD IN SLAYING AT DUBLIN

DUBLIN, Ga., Aug. 5. (AP)—N. E. Rutherford, 55, a Dublin storekeeper, was shot to death shortly after midnight Saturday in the yard of his home and police today were seeking his slayer.

Rutherford lived in the same building where he operated his store. After closing up that night, he went back into the yard to lock his garage and was shot through the heart by an unidentified man.

Police said it was evidently a hold-up attempt and that the assailant probably thought Rutherford would have the day's receipts from the store with him. However, nothing was stolen.

Three negroes were held for investigation.

Two Men Will Die In Electric Chair

GAINESVILLE, Ga., July 24. (AP)—Demp Charles and John Daniel, Negroes, charged with the axe-slaying of Walter Simpson, a white farmer, on July 7, were convicted of first degree murder today and sentenced to death in the electric chair Aug. 30.

The Negroes were tried separately and the entire proceedings in both trials required only about seven hours. The jury deliberated 35 minutes on the Charles case and less than that in the other case. Sentence was passed by Judge B. P. Gaillard, Jr.

Simpson, a bachelor, was slain at his farm home near here.

NEGRO IS INDICTED IN SLAYING OF GAY

Colquitt County Grand Jury Returns Bill Against Sloan.

MOULTREE, Ga., Nov. 1. (AP)—A true bill was returned against John Henry Sloan, 21-year-old negro, here today by a superior court grand jury for the murder of Otis Gay, young white man killed by a shotgun blast in the Hamilton district October 15 as he sat conversing with a woman companion.

No definite plans were completed for trying the negro, as Superior Court Judge W. E. Thomas is scheduled to hold a term of court in Quitman next week and return to Valdosta for a Lowndes county term which is expected to consume at least two weeks.

The grand jury probed the testimonies of six state witnesses during the morning and returned the indictment only a few minutes before noon. Throughout the hearing the Colquitt county courtroom was practically filled with spectators.

Killings - 1935

Georgia.

NEGRO SENTENCED

Chair Awaits 17-Year-Old Who Killed Police Chief

ELLAVILLE, Ga.—(P)—The sentence of death, pronounced a few hours after he was indicted, hung Tuesday over Charlie Dodson, 17-year-old Negro who shot and killed Chief of Police Souter Christmas Eve.

The killing of Chief Souter aroused this Southwest Georgia town and hundreds of citizens joined in the search for Dodson who was captured by Sheriff Riggby and rushed to Columbus jail for safekeeping. Brought back Monday, in a short time Dodson was indicted, convicted and sentenced to die Jan. 21 in the electric chair at Milledgeville.

The trial Monday was conducted without any show of violence which officers here said was threatened immediately after the chief was killed. The only time that the crowd of approximately 1,000 persons grew restless was when Dodson took the stand.

The Negro in his statement said he and Chief Souter were fighting and he saw Souter's gun. He said he pulled it from its holster and fired three shots at the police chief. Dodson had been arrested a few minutes before the shooting on a charge of stealing goods from a local store. His statement was the only defense offered.

The jury convicted him after deliberating only about 15 minutes.

The trial was held at a special session of the Schley Superior Court, with Judge Harper presiding.

Death Sentence Given

Police Chief's Slayer

ELLAVILLE, Ga., Dec. 31.—(P)—Charlie Dodson, negro, today was sentenced to die in the electric chair January 21 for the slaying of Chief of Police William B. Souter, here Christmas Eve night.

A Schley county superior court jury deliberated 15 minutes in the trial of Dodson, whose only defense was his brief statement on the stand that he and the officer were fighting when he saw the chief's gun, pulled it from its holster and fired three times at the officer.

The shooting followed the robbery of a store here and the state offered several witnesses who described the shooting and robbery.

GRIEVING NEGRO SLAYS EX-SWEETHEART, SELF

Thwarted love, according to police Thursday night caused a negro, Will Hawkins, of 521 1/2 Memphis street, to shoot and kill his former sweetheart, Ethel Watts, negro, 675 Bass street, S. E., and later turn the gun on himself. Both were dead when found.

The negro, according to police, re-

ports, had been grieving for six months over the marriage. His former sweetheart and Thursday night went to her home and shot her in the back, killing her almost instantly. He then walked to a spot near 722 Fraser street, where he put the pistol in his mouth and fired the shot which instantly killed himself.

UNLAWFUL KILLINGS

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

Lawful and unlawful killings as defined by law are burglary at night, killing in self-defense, and killing in defense of father or mother or child. All others are murder, according to the statutes of crimes in Georgia, and under national law. In the case reported by you, only simple larceny was being committed by a Negro. Under the fourteenth amendment to the Federal Constitution, "a citizen not protected by the state courts, can and must be protected by the federal courts; and if the Bibb grand jury fails to indict the man who, fearing the loss of gasoline, shot down a Negro. I hope Judge Deaver will have the federal grand jury investigate the facts.

We have as white people over eighteen hundred years of civilization. It has been barely three hundred since the Negro was brought as a slave from the jungles of Africa. Let our courts protect all men alike in Georgia. I abhor crime, but believe in the strict enforcement of the law without partiality.

Cuthbert, Ga.

ANDREW P. RIVES.

Negro Gets Life Term In Killing Last April

Charlie Woodson, negro, was found guilty Friday in Fulton superior court of the murder of Walter Bivins, another negro, and was given a life sentence upon the jury's recommendation of mercy. Bivins was fatally shot April 7, as the result of a gambling row.

Richard Smith, Ed Bradley and Joseph Bradley, negroes, who were indicted Tuesday for a burglary of the storehouse of W. B. McClure, pleaded guilty before Judge G. H. Howard, and were given six to ten-year sentences. Goods valued at \$101 were taken from the store January 1.

Grady Walker, negro, was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter under a murder charge in connection with the butcher-knife slaying of Eddie Lee Edwards, another negro, and was sentenced to serve 15 to 20 years by Judge Howard.

J. C. Barker, negro, pleaded guilty to a New Year's Day burglary at the home of R. G. Markillie, and was given a sentence of 8 to 10 years by Judge Howard.

Thomas Junior Robinson was found guilty of robbing J. B. Powell, of Kite, Ga., of his automobile and \$16 and was sentenced to serve three to five years. Carl E. Morris, Floyd Walker and George Morris Jr., jointly indicted with Robinson, have not been tried.

A \$4.78 burglary of Hobart Manufacturing Company December 12 resulted in the jury conviction of John W. Murphy, whom Judge Howard sentenced to serve from three to ten years.

NEGRO CONVICT SLAIN ON DEKALB CHAIN GANG

Argument over a card game played three days before resulted Tuesday night in a fight in the bunkhouse of the DeKalb county chain gang camp, which ended when one of the negro convicts, Henry Terry, 34, stabbed Robert Gaither, 30, negro, through the heart with a small penknife. Gaither died almost instantly according to DeKalb Chief of Police W. O. Parker.

POLICE CHIEF SLAYER IS EXECUTED IN CHAIR

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., Jan. 21.—(P)—Charlie Dodson, negro, convicted of slaying Chief of Police William B. Souter, of Ellaville, was electrocuted at the state prison farm today. He was placed in the chair at 10:07 a. m. and was pronounced dead 12 minutes later.

Dodson was convicted at Ellaville December 31. The officer was shot three times following his attempt to arrest Dodson last Christmas Eve after a store robbery. Prison officials said the negro told relatives of Souter who witnessed the execution, that he shot the police chief.

Patrolman Indicted In Slaying of Negro

After hearing a large number of witnesses Friday Fulton county grand jury returned an indictment charging R. E. Floyd, city policeman, with the murder of Ben Anderson, a negro, last Saturday.

The negro was shot when officers sought to stop a shooting affray on the street, it was said. According to the solicitor-general's office testimony before the grand jury convicted as to the shooting, one negro undertaker's employe testifying that there was no external evidence of a bullet wound, substantiating statements said to have been made by the police that the man was shot in the mouth and that the bullet remained in the body, while another undertaker said that Anderson was shot in the back, the bullet entering below the shoulderblade and severing the aorta.

Ellaville People Are Commended

The calm and legal electrocution of Charlie Dodson, a Negro, at the state's prison farm last Monday is worthy of more than passing notice. He killed one of the state's police officers at Ellaville. The officer, William B. Souter, was worth a thousand such characters as Dodson, and the people of Ellaville felt that way about it, as they beheld the bullet riddled body of the officer. But they did the wise thing, the civilized thing—they respected their own laws and their own courts, and gave the murderer the benefit of a fair trial. Thus they have saved the good name of their own community and of the state of Georgia, and indeed of the whole South.

The people of this section are proud of their long lineage of the purest Anglo-Saxon strains. We often boast that we are pure stock, and that we have a background that cannot be claimed in any other section; but we have too often proved ourselves unworthy of our civilization. If we are the bravest and most chivalrous of peoples, we cannot afford to act like savages, no matter what the provocation. We have an added responsibility in our stewardship over an inferior race. Whether we want the stewardship or not, it is ours to keep; and the day of accounting must come.

An Ellaville store was robbed on Christmas Eve night. The alert Policeman Souter quickly detected the robber, and went to arrest him. The Negro had the advantage and poured three bullets into the body of the courageous officer, producing instant death. The Negro disappeared, and reports reached The Telegraph from seemingly reliable sources that he had been carried away and lynched. Some people claiming to have been among the lynchers made the report.

This was sad news in the office of The Telegraph, for the paper's opposition to lynching the law is well known. No apology is made for the stand that it has taken on the subject. It is a crime against Georgia when Georgians throw their legal machinery into the discard and stain their hands with murderous blood.

It was with great rejoicing that news was later received that the responsible and law-abiding citizens of Ellaville had speeded the officer's murderer to Columbus jail for safekeeping.

He was given trial on Dec. 31, and sentenced to death. He admitted in the death cell that he had killed the policeman. He paid the law's penalty last Monday, Jan. 21.

It is easy to understand that a community

wants to see punishment inflicted upon the slayer of one who is entrusted with protecting the peace and safety of the people, and who dies in the performance of duty; but there is always a right way and a wrong way; and it is comforting to know that Ellaville's people adopted the right way.

Georgia may have plenty of sins to answer for at the judgment bar, but lynching should forever cease to be one of them, and Ellaville has set a commendable example.

THREE NEGRO WOMEN INDICTED FOR MURDER

Three negro women were named in indictments returned by Fulton county grand jury Friday charging murder. Willie Mae Lane is charged with the pistol murder of Ada Spivey February 4. Frankie McKnight is charged with the murder of Hewitt Hecton, who was shot to death February 4, and Mary Weaver is charged with the fatal stabbing of Idell Banks February 6.

5,000 Attend Funeral Of Slain Strike Figure

ROSSVILLE, Ga., Feb. 5.—(P)—A crowd estimated by police at 5,000 jammed the Rossville arena, labor union meeting place, here today as five preachers conducted a public funeral service for Columbus (Pink) Walker, asserted sympathizer killed Sunday in a new outbreak in the Richmond Hosiery mills strike.

Two American flags and the banner of the United Textile Workers were raised from a rostrum in the center of the arena which is used for boxing and wrestling matches as well as for a meeting place. On it was Walker's flag-draped casket banked with flowers.

Burial took place in the National cemetery, and traffic officers estimated that several hundred cars followed the hearse along the seven-mile route. No disorders were reported either at the Richmond mill here or at its Daisy and Soddy (Tenn.) plants, where strikes also are in progress.

Walker was shot to death Sunday as he and a companion called at the home of a mill worker who refused to leave his job to join in the strike. The worker, listed as Talmadge Lindsey,

was charged with the shooting. Sheriff J. C. Keown, of Walker county, Georgia, to whom Lindsey surrendered, said the worker told him the pair, both described as strike sympathizers, had threatened to come and "get" him because he kept on working.

Shooting Marks Strike In Georgia

Unemployed Sympathizer Slain, One Wounded In Rossville Mill Trouble

ROSSVILLE, GA., Feb. 3.—(AP)—One man was shot to death and another seriously wounded today in what officers described as a new flare of trouble in the strike at the Richmond Lumber Mill here.

Sergt. W. A. Campbell, of the Chattanooga police force, which took charge of the case since it developed just across the Tennessee line, said the man killed was known as Pink Walker, unemployed and generally regarded as a strike sympathizer. The wounded man was Corbet Davis, also described as a sympathizer.

The Sergeant said a mill worker, who stuck to his job after the strike was called, was charged with the shooting. He was listed as Talmadge Lindsey. He surrendered to Sheriff J. C. Keown, of Walker County, Ga., immediately after the shooting and was turned over to Tennessee officers.

Sheriff Keown at once telephoned Adj. Gen. Lindley Camp in Atlanta to inform him that the shooting had created a somewhat tense situation, discussing the advisability of once more having national guardsmen sent here to keep order. Later it was decided not to seek troops at this time as the situation grew quieter.

The Sheriff said Lindsey told him in an oral statement that Walker and Davis had been members of a party of strike sympathizers who seized him and beat him on the streets Saturday night over his persistence in working in the face of the strike. They again called at his home last night in his absence, he told the Sheriff, and left word with his wife that they were coming to "get" him today.

Sheriff Keown said Lindsey told him he fired with his shotgun to protect himself when the men came to his home today. Both Lindsey and his wife are working in the mill which has continued to operate in spite of the strike.

More than 300 State troopers were stationed here for a time several weeks ago at the request of city and county officials who said night riding, quarrels and intimidation of workers had developed a condition with which they could not cope without the aid of the military. The guardsmen left after the situation quieted.

Sheriff Keown said today that matters again looked grave but that he was of the opinion the local officers could

handle the situation. He said he planned redoubled vigilance tonight and tomorrow morning when the mill opens after the weekend lay off.

In Atlanta, meanwhile, Adj. Gen. Camp issued a statement saying it was not planned to send troops back to Rossville.

"The Sheriff," he said, "decided after further study of the situation that he could keep things in hand. I believe J. C. Keown, the sheriff of Walker County, has as much courage as any sheriff with whom I have come in contact. I never saw a man cover the ground he stood on more thoroughly than has this Sheriff."

Sheriff Keown said that Lindsey, in surrendering, asked to be locked up expressing fear that his life would be in danger.

Atlanta, Ga., Herald
January 31, 1935

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worthy of more than passing notice. He was given trial on Dec. 31, and he killed one of the state's police officers at Ellaville. The officer, Wm. B. Souter, was worth a thousand such characters as Dodson, and the people of Ellaville felt that way about it, as they beheld the bullet riddled body of the officer. But they did the wise thing, the civilized thing—they respected their own laws and their own courts, and gave the murder the benefit of a fair trial. Thus they have saved the good name of their own community and of the state of Georgia, and indeed of the whole South.

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NEGRO CONVICTED IN KING'S DEATH

Webster Jury Finds Willie Grimes Guilty in Slaying of Weston Storekeeper

PRESTON, Ga., Feb. 14. (AP)—A jury in Webster superior court last night convicted Willie S. Grimes, Negro, on a charge of first degree murder for the slaying of J. L. King and he was sentenced to death in the electric chair.

The jury deliberated a little more than two hours. Judge W. M. Harper pronounced sentence and set the execution for March 6. Grimes and two other Negroes, listed by police as D. Brown and Kid Wilbourn, were indicted yesterday on murder counts by the Webster county grand jury. Brown and Wilbourn will be tried today. King, a storekeeper of Weston, Ga., was slain early in January. Testimony given at Grimes' trial brought out that the Negro had owed King some money and that the latter had taken legal steps to collect it. The prosecution, headed by Solicitor Hollis Fort, contended that Grimes killed King in revenge for his action in trying to collect the debt. The Negro was defended by two attorneys appointed by the court, Cleveland Rees and M. A. Walker. A fourth Negro, arrested after the slaying and booked as Peter Powell, was not indicted by the grand jury. He is held as a witness for the state. J. J. King, slain on Jan. 2, was a brother of Mrs. Mattie Elliott of 930 College street, Macon.

than two hours. Judge W. M. Harper pronounced sentence and set the execution for March 6.

Grimes and two other Negroes, listed by police as D. Brown and Kid Wilbourn, were indicted yesterday on murder counts by the Webster county grand jury. Brown and Wilbourn will be tried today.

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J. J. King, slain on Jan. 2, was a brother of Mrs. Mattie Elliott of 930 College street, Macon.

Two Negroes Executed In Thomson Slaying

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., March 1. (AP)—Convicted of the slaying of Jim Black Stone, a Thomson merchant, two negroes were electrocuted at the state prison today.

Rufus Lawrence, superintendent of the state prison, said both the men, John Wright and Rack Reese, denied just before they went to the chair that they had killed Stone. Mr. Stone was found on a street in Thomson on the evening of November 1, 1934. He had been struck on the head. The negroes were convicted in McDuffie county last December.

Negro Is Convicted In Slaying of Carroll

DOUGLASVILLE, Ga., March 26. A jury in Douglas superior court today convicted a negro known as Eddie Bowen, 22, of firing the shots here on the night of February 19 that caused the death of Joe Carroll, of Carrollton, the next day in an Atlanta hospital. No recommendation was included in the guilty verdict and he will be sentenced Wednesday to die in the electric chair at the state farm.

Carroll was seen waiting for a bus to Carrollton and accompanied the local night watchman on his rounds. They found the rear door of a grocery store tampered with and when the watchman went to the front of the store Carroll was shot while still near the rear door. He was rushed to an Atlanta hospital, where he died the next day.

Bowen, a local negro, several days later was arrested and charged with the shooting.

The trial was before Judge J. R. Hutcheson, with Solicitor Hal C. Hutchins representing the state.

Negro Sentenced In Murder Case

Arthur Burden Will Die in Chair for Slaying

Judge W. A. McClellan in Bibb superior court last night passed a death sentence on Arthur Burden, young Negro accused of murder in connection with the slaying of Elizabeth Henry, his sister-in-law, last Dec. 1 on Rock street.

Arguments of counsel were completed at about 6:30 p.m. yesterday and Judge McClellan charged the jury immediately. The jury returned a verdict of guilty without recommendation about an hour later.

Burden is accused of having fired a shotgun through a window at his wife and two of her sisters. The load took effect in the head of the Henry Negress, killing her instantly, and Hester Burden, the man's wife, was wounded slightly. Norman E. English represents the accused man.

NEGRO MAN SOUGHT IN GIRL'S SLAYING

DeKalb County Officers in Hunt for Armed Fugitive; Dogs Lose Trail

Police yesterday were asked to arrest a man listed by DeKalb county police as James Williams, 26-year-old negro, for the slaying of Emma Johnson, negro, about 20, at her home on the Montreal road, which branches off the Lawrenceville highway about three miles from Decatur.

They were cautioned by DeKalb officers, who issued the arrest order, to use every precaution in apprehending him, describing him as "mean and dangerous." He was armed with a shotgun when last seen.

The shooting occurred yesterday morning after an argument, subject of which police did not learn. They were told, officers said, that Williams, carrying the shotgun, asked the woman, "you don't believe I'll kill you dead?" At her negative answer he discharged the gun, the load striking her in the chest.

There was a two-hour delay in calling officers due to the isolated area in which the shooting occurred, and when DeKalb County Police Captain J. T. Dailey and Captain E. W. Ware, convict warden, arrived on the scene with dogs the negro had a long start. After a two-hour chase across the country the dogs lost the scent when the trail came to the Lawrenceville highway.

Killings - 1935

ILLINOIS

ATTACKER FACES DEMAND OF DEATH "WHITEWASH" JACK BLACKBURN OF CHARGE OF KILLING TWO

Admitting Assault of 17,
Slaying of One, He Is
Hidden From Public.

PEORIA, Ill., June 23.—(P)—Still wary of smouldering public resentment, authorities continued today to hide Gerald Thompson, 25, in an undisclosed jail as the assembled evidence to support a demand for death penalty retribution in the brutal slaying of pretty Mildred Hallmark.

State's Attorney E. V. Champion, of Peoria county, completed preliminaries for a hastily summoned re-convening of the grand jury Tuesday. He said with Thompson's alleged confession of the attack and slaying of the 19-year-old girl available, a murder indictment could be voted late that day.

The prosecutor asserted every effort would be made to give the young tool-maker a speedy and fair trial, but he declined to divulge in what lockup Thompson was incarcerated. "I'm taking no chances," Champion said. "The Peoria citizenry is naturally resentful and we feel it is better for all concerned to keep the slayer's whereabouts hidden at this time."

The state's attorney said he would release Julian Baxter, 24, amateur photographer friend of Thompson. Baxter was taken into custody yesterday after it was learned Thompson had photographed some of the young women police said he admitted attacking.

"We are satisfied Baxter had nothing to do with the Hallmark case," Champion said.

Authorities termed Thompson "sex-mad" and asserted that in addition to his confession to police in the Hallmark case, a diary kept by him listed 16 other assaults. Champion did not plan to subpoena other alleged victims.

Miss Hallmark's nearly nude body was found last Monday in a creek in Springdale cemetery. She had suffered a broken neck.

CHICAGO, Nov. 15.—(ANP)—In Commission.

At the inquest the coroner's of-quest recently held into the slaying of Enoch House, 49 year old, a Tuskegee graduate, now in the hands of Frank J. Loesch, chair-man of the Chicago Crime Commission, is expected to effect a sweeping investigation into methods used by the coroner's office and the police department in investigating and prosecuting the case. At the inquest held two weeks ago, Jack Blackburn, 52, trainer of Joe Louis, John Bowman, William Parnell and Edward Ellis, shooting scrape with Bowman who ran out in front of his home when his sweetheart, Victoria Richard, Houser, an innocent passerby, was fatally wounded, were freed when the coroner's jury under Deputy Coroner Benjamin A. Grant found that Houser had come to his death at the hands of "persons unknown."

Bruseaux Retained

Attorney J. Joseph E. Clayton, Jr., counsel for Houser's family, retained Sheridan A. Bruseaux, not colored criminologist, to make an independent investigation into the circumstances of the case and the information he has uncovered was turned over to the lawyer who in turn placed it into the hands of the crime commission. "Certain members of the coroner's jury and witnesses, I find, were tampered with," Mr. Bruseaux was quoted as saying this week. "In addition my investigation involves certain high police officials and these circumstances were so grave that they have been turned over to the Chicago Crime Commission and early next week the state's attorney will be apprised as to what I believe has taken place."

Says Money Paid Out

"We have information to show that money was passed during the inquest at the county morgue on November 1 and we are also in possession of information as to the manner in which the four guns used were disposed of. This is so serious that we will present these findings to the Civil Service

Tells of Shooting

These same witnesses told of Blackburn and his companion, William Parnell, leaving the scene only to return later to get into a shooting scrape with Bowman who ran out in front of his home when his sweetheart, Victoria Richard, Houser, an innocent passerby, was fatally wounded, were freed when the coroner's jury under Deputy Coroner Benjamin A. Grant found that Houser had come to his death at the hands of "persons unknown." Blackburn, it seems, wanted to inspect a garage in the rear of Bowman's house with the idea of purchasing it. An argument started and Bowman knocked the train-er down. Witnesses testified that 10 shots were fired, one of which struck Mr. Houser who was walking down the street, and another which hit Lucy Cannon, a nine year old girl. However, police officers headed by detectives Harold Colander and James Woulfe were unable to find any of the four guns said to have been used and none of the bullets.

Bullet "Disappears"

One of the bullets was said to have mysteriously disappeared after it dropped from Houser's clothing onto the floor of the operating room at Provident hospital. All through the inquest Deputy Coroner Grant, and Attorneys Clayton, Richard E. Westbrooks, representing Bowman, and Attorney W. W. O'Brien, white, counsel for Blackburn and Parnell, wrangled bitterly. Clayton exploded a bombshell by asking the police what became of the guns and the bullets.

Killings-1935

Paroled Lifer Stabs White Girl, Kills Negro

INDIANAPOLIS, March 7.—(P)—
The doors of the Michigan City state prison closed tonight on Benjamin Gray, alias Carson Noel, 45-year-old negro, who was sentenced to 41 years on a plea of guilty to stabbing and beating Miss Lavina Rae Storer, 19-year-old secretary. 3-9-35

The negro told police that he had been sentenced to life imprisonment for the slaying of his common-law wife, Daisy Williams, in Louisville, Ky., in 1919, but that he was paroled in 1930. Atlanta, Ga.

He was confronted this morning by Thomas Irwin, negro, who accused Gray of murdering his mother, of Gracey, Ky., in January, 1932. When asked by a detective if he killed the Bowling woman, Gray replied: "I believe I do remember something about a scrap with her. Seems to me I did smack her with an ax."

Indiana

Killings-1935

FARMER IS SENTENCED FOR SLAYING NEGRO

OWENSBORO, Ky., May 30.—(P)
Charles Huebner, Daviess county farmer, charged with murder in the slaying of Harvey Newton, 41, negro, was found guilty today by a jury in the Daviess circuit court and given six years in the penitentiary. Newton was one of three negroes killed by Huebner last January at the termination of a dice game. Huebner testifying in his own defense said "crooked dice" were used by the negroes and when he demanded return of nine dollars he lost an argument followed.

Kentucky

Killings-1935

Louisiana.

HOLD NEGRO IN SLAYING

Accused of Beating Salesman, Robbing Companion in Monroe

MONROE, La., Jan. 22.—At a preliminary hearing in the Ouachita parish district court, Harry Hayes, 40, negro, held in connection with the slaying of Edward D. Vaughan, Monroe furniture salesman, was ordered held to the grand jury. His bond was fixed at \$1,000.

While in his parked automobile on a lonely Monroe street with a woman companion the night of last Dec. 22, Vaughan was attacked with a club by a negro robber. He died a few days later. The woman was robbed but otherwise unmolested. She identified Hayes as the robber.

ESCAPED CONVICT

IS KILLED BY POSSE

Companion Is Captured Two

Bloodhounds Killed

BATON ROUGE, La., Nov. 28.—

(AP)—One of two convicts fleeing from the Louisiana penitentiary at Angola was shot and killed late today after gunfire exchange with a posse.

The other convict was captured. The convict killed was Robert

Hudson, 22, serving a robbery and larceny term from Lake Charles, La.

His companion who surrendered after the shooting was Robert T. Fuller, 31, under sentence for assault with intent to rob from Oberlin, La.

Hudson and Fuller, who escaped two days ago from the Angola penal farm 60 miles north of here by knocking down a guard, and taking his gun and riding off on two plow horses, were tracked to a point in the Tunica hills only a mile and a half from the farm.

They shot and killed two hounds with which the posse was trailing them before being located.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

"I despise everything you say—but I will fight to the death for your right to say it."—Voltaire.

THE MURDER OF HUEY LONG!

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

The Murder of Huey Long shows that the South is still running true to form. This kind of thing has been going on from time immemorial, and I am afraid that the mind of the fire-eating, brain-storming Southerner will never run to the contrary.

In the early nineties and later a man named W. C. Brann in Waco, Texas, published a monthly magazine called Iconoclast. Like Watson's Jeffersonian and Columbia Sentinel, it attacked everything and everybody whose opinions did not coincide with Brann's. He wrote many pamphlets, among them was Potiphar's Wife, which was a thriller, but could not be read in mixed company. About that time Life, published in New York City, had a stinging editorial about how Negroes were treated politically down in Texas. Brann wrote an answer to it, which was a hummer. Don't remember all the editorial, but I still remember the beginning of it, which I will give as nearly as I can:

"We are at a loss to understand how this little, obnoxious Yankee sheet found its way down in Texas unless wrapped around a consignment of yellow mugs intended for Texas niggers."

Brann was so trenchant that his enemies could not defend, at least not in printable language. And so the usual thing happened. Brann charged that Baylor University was a hot bed of immorality. This was like waving a red rag in the face of a bull to a man named Davis, whose daughter was a student at Baylor. So Davis promptly loaded himself to the gun-wales with explosives, walked to the office of Brann; and there they both settled it in the good old-time Southern way. The next morning the caskets of both were carried to the grave, covered with banks of flowers, and the morning and the evening was the first day after the demise of W. C. Brann.

In the middle nineties William Goebel, a Kentucky politician, built up a political machine in Kentucky like Long did in Louisiana. He rode roughshod over everything and everybody, and had himself elected Governor of Kentucky by methods that were questionable, to say the least. A crazy lunatic and expert rifleman from the mountains secreted himself in the office of Caleb Powers and shot Goebel on the capitol grounds. As this was just before Goebel was sworn in as Governor he was taken into the capitol and the oath of office was administered to him. He was unconscious at the time and never knew anything about it. Beckham, the Lieutenant Governor, served out Goebel's term. Caleb Powers was tried for the crime, and as he was a prominent Republican politician, he was promptly railroaded to the pen for life. It was proven conclusively that Powers was not even in Frankfort when the crime was committed. At the next election the Republicans swept the state. Caleb Powers was pardoned and served several terms in Congress. Even sessions of our courts and legislative assemblies have not been free from this thing. For the most of us can still remember about 25 years or more ago at Hillsville, Virginia, when Judge Thornton Massey and Clerk Dexter Goad, and probably other court officials, were fired upon in open court and killed by the Allen gang. And probably a few of us remember that in 1838, Colonel Wilson, speaker of the Arkansas Legislature, fired from the speaker's desk in open session and killed one of the members, Major Anthony by name, for an implied insult.

Even the Civil War was not free from these high-handed murders. Gen. Theophilus H. Holmes and Gen. John G. Walker of the Confederate Army, fought a duel, in which one of them, I think General Holmes, was killed; and Major Peters, a surgeon in the Confederate Army, shot and killed Major General Earl Van Dorn for alleged illicit relations with the wife of Peters.

Oh, well, probably in the Great Beyond these Southern fire-eaters will be placed in a pit by themselves, and allowed to shoot at each other throughout eternity.

White Plains.

B. A. BUSTIN.

Killings—1935

Maryland.

Killer-Cop Absolved by Marlboro Jury in July Slaying of Colored Man

*Twelve Farmers Ignore
Strong Case Against
Fellow Townsman*

DEATH OF KATER

STEVENS UNAVENGED

*Defendant Unmoved, Tho
State Flays Him as
"Reckless Killer"*

By SAMUEL H. LACY

MARLBORO, Md.—Here in the same courtroom where seven years ago he was convicted of an assault on a white man, Charles W. Flory, white Bladensburg town policeman, Monday, was exonerated for shooting to death a Negro, Kater Stevens, 31, 942 P Street, Northwest, last July.

Tried before a jury of eleven white men and one colored, Flory sat throughout the trial and received the verdict with calm indifference. He seemed to feel sure of himself. He appeared to know he would be "taken care of."

State's Attorney Alan Bowie, who took up the case despite an exonerated by the coroner's jury which inquired into the death shortly after Stevens was fatally shot in the dark of a Bladensburg alley, handled the prosecution. His job was well done. Counsel for the family of the deceased as well as defense attorneys were satisfied that the government's case had been capably presented.

Doing the Impossible

But that was only part of the work. The other part was convincing a group of hardened farmers who just wouldn't listen to reason. It was well nigh impossible to do this.

Mr. Bowie believed he had done it. Everyone appeared to believe he had done it—except Flory. The middle-aged town officer sat expressionless as the twelve men filed

into the courtroom after two hours and 16 minutes of deliberation. He obviously sensed acquittal. There could be no betrayal from these men who had ridden his buckboard and borrowed his sow.

Called Wanton Killer

The jury had been given the case after an impassioned plea by Mr. Bowie to "place this wanton, reckless killer behind the bars." Prior to the prosecutor's closing argument, R. W. McCullough, counsel for Flory had beseeched the jury to "face the facts and consider what it meant to the county and the community to take out of it and away from his wife and daughter the sort of protection that your wives and my wife, your children and my children, need."

Flory was charged with manslaughter in an indictment returned by a grand jury before whom States Attorney Bowie had appeared with the findings of his probe. This probe had been taken up at the insistence of Attorney B. V. Lawson, of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's legal staff. Attorney Lawson and Thurgood Marshall, Baltimore, Md., a lawyer had been retained to represent the family of Stevens by the Women's Federation of Prince Georges County.

Fled Custody

The indictment grew out of a charge that Flory shot and mortally wounded the Negro when the latter jumped from the window of an automobile in which he was being carried from Bladensburg to the Hyattsville, Md., jail along with a group of other prisoners.

Witnesses stated that Stevens had been arrested on a traffic violation and was being transported in the care of Flory to the jail when he suddenly attempted to escape. The officer, they testified, gave chase a few feet and then fired his gun after the fleeing man. Flory fired his gun after the fleeing man.

A verdict of a coroner's jury held that Flory was acting in the

line of duty and fired because he feared for the safety of his own life.

A little over seven years ago, it was brought out at the trial, Flory struck a white prisoner over the head with the butt of his revolver and was haled into court on an assault charge. He was convicted and fined \$50 for the offense.

THREE ARRESTED

IN MURDER CASE

Negroes Held by Maryland Police After Body of Ship's Carpenter Is Found

FREDERICK, Md., Nov. 9 (P)—Manuel Silva, 40-year-old ship's carpenter, was killed in the cellar of his home at Doub, near here, his body taken to Montgomery county and dumped beside the road, Sheriff Roy M. Hiltner said tonight.

The man's badly charred body was found near Rockville today. His automobile was located two miles away.

No motive had been uncovered but Frederick and Montgomery county officers arrested two Negro women for questioning. They declined to give the names of the women or to say what connection they had with the slaying.

Sheriff Hiltner said it was clear that Silva had been killed in the cellar of his home. Blood stains were found there and there were signs that a terrific struggle had taken place. Bits of flesh also were found in the cellar.

Negro Boxer Arrested

Alfred Brown, 25, a Negro boxer, was arrested in Montgomery county. He told officers there he was a stepson of Silva, but Sheriff Hiltner said there was no connection between the two men.

Silva was not married and lived a secluded life. A number of Negroes live in the immediate vicinity.

Sheriff Hiltner said attempts had been made to burn the body but that he did not know where the attempted burning took place. Hiltner said he was confident, however, that the body was removed from Silva's home in his own automobile.

Parts of the upholstery of the car were singed.

The officer said Silva bore a good reputation in the community.

Killings-1935

Michigan

Attorney Says Police Killed Negro Woman

Steps Taken To Force Criminal Prosecution of Those Responsible

(Daily Worker Michigan Bureau)

DETROIT, April 11. — Maurice Sugar, noted labor attorney and recently united labor candidate for judge of Recorder's Court, has taken steps to force criminal prosecution of two policemen responsible for the death of a Negro woman.

The killing of the woman occurred on the night of March 31. A group of Negro people were attending a party at the home of Ellen Starks, 2003 Clinton St. Two of the women guests started arguing loudly, whereupon two policemen pushed their way through the door and began questioning everybody. The cops told Mae Smith, one of the two that had been arguing, to go home. When she persisted in her refusal, the cops threatened to throw her out. One of them took her by the arm, dragged her onto the porch and pushed her off. She missed all the steps and landed on her head on the sidewalk, fracturing her skull. Subsequently she died in the hospital.

A committee of the Nat Turner Club, an organization of Negro workers and intellectuals, asked Sugar and Samuel B. Keene to take up the case together with Robert Evans, Negro attorney, who is a member of the club.

When the committee and the attorneys went to the office of the Homicide Squad, Inspector Navarre immediately demanded that the lawyers leave and that he see the committee alone. Sugar protested. "This is the first step in the cover-up," he said. Turning to Assistant Prosecutor Nahabedian, he demanded to know whether he was going to participate in this attempt to whitewash the police. Nahabedian tried to squirm out of it, whereupon the entire committee left.

They were, however, soon called back and Inspector Navarre agreed to see them all.

Members of the committee

pointed out that the witnesses had been terrorized and given the impression that they were under arrest. If the prosecutor's office refuses to act against the two policemen, Sugar will attempt to secure a warrant for their arrest from a judge.

FERRYMAN KILLS GIRL IN HOSPITAL ROOM

LUDINGTON, Mich., Nov. 14. — (P) William Hanson, 23-year-old carferry deckhand who, officers said, confessed he killed Miss Marguerite Kraft, 28, hospital bookkeeper because she attempted to break off their friendship, was held in an unnamed jail tonight for safekeeping.

Miss Kraft died a few minutes after she was struck in the back by a shotgun charge, fired as she fled into the X-ray room of the hospital to escape her assailant.

Miss Irene Rounding, nurse, who was working in the room, told officers she grappled with Hanson in an effort to take the gun from him.

Killings-1935

Mississippi.

Mississippi Court Affirms Negroes' Sentences But Criticizes Officers'

JACKSON, MISS., April 29.—(P)—Deploping "tortuous" methods allegedly used to obtain confessions from three convicted Kemper County negroes in the slaying of a white planter, and with a dissenting opinion describing the trial and conviction a "barbaric act to mob spirit," the State Supreme Court today affirmed death sentence for the trio.

The court overruled a suggestion of error on its original ruling of affirmation and set June 6 as the new date of execution for the convicted killers of Raymond Stewart, planter.

"Tortuous" methods employed by State officers to obtain the confessions from Ed Brown, Yank Ellington, and Fred Shields were criticized in both the prevailing and dissenting opinions, but the majority decision held that objections to the recital of these methods in the trial record were not properly presented.

The majority ruling left an avenue of appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court. Justice Virgil Griffith, author of the dissenting opinion in which Justice Anderson concurred, said affirmation of the death sentence "to my mind," would be as becoming a court as to say that a lynching party has been legitimate and legal because the victim, while being hung, did not object in the proper form of words at precisely the proper stage of the proceedings."

Justice Cook in writing the prevailing opinion said, while the court did not in any case condone the methods allegedly used by deputies sheriff in obtaining the confessions, the defense did not raise its objection to the inclusion of this confession at the proper stage of the trial, and that so far as the record showed, its inclusion as a part of the evidence was justified.

The dissenting opinion described the method allegedly used in obtaining a confession from the defendant Ellington, saying: "... they hanged him by a rope to the limb of a tree, and having let him down they hung him again, and when he was let down the second time, and he still protested his innocence, he was tied to a tree and whipped and still declining to accede to the demands that he confess, he was finally released and he returned home suffering from intense pain and agony. The record of the testimony shows that the signs of the rope on his neck were plainly visible during the so-called trial."

Execution Date Fixed For Mississippi Negro

GULFPORT, MISS., April 29.—(P)—Circuit Judge Walter A. White of Pascagoula, today fixed May 21 as the date for the execution of the sentence of

"To affirm the Lower Court findings would be as becoming a Court as to say that lynching has become legitimate and legal, because the victim, while being hung up by the mob, did not object in the proper form of words at precisely the proper stage of the proceedings."

Another dissenting opinion, rendered by Associate Justice W. D. Henderson, referred to the United States Supreme Court decision on the Alabama Scottsboro case, in which the Federal body held, in effect, that the defendants were deprived of their rights when Negroes were excluded from the jury panel.

DENIED FAIR TRIAL.

Justice Henderson declared: "They were denied due process—a fair and impartial trial. Leaving out the confessions, the evidence was wholly insufficient to sustain conviction. It appears to me it is condemned by the principles laid down by the U. S. Supreme Court in the Scottsboro case."

Stewart was killed in March, 1934. He was beaten over the head with an ax and left in a house which was saturated with kerosene and then set fire.

APPEAL MOVE SAVES NEGROES FROM NOOSE

Mississippi Supreme Court Grants Stay to Trio

From Jackson, Miss., Bureau of The Commercial Appeal

JACKSON, Miss., May 6.—Chief Justice Sydney Smith of the supreme court today issued a stay of execution for three Kemper County negroes under sentence to be hanged June 6 for the slaying of a farmer.

The order was granted to allow attorneys to file an appeal before the United States Supreme Court on grounds that the negroes were not given a fair trial.

The negroes are Ed Brown, Henry Shields and Yank Ellington.

In dissenting from the majority opinion, two justices, Anderson and Griffith, pointed out that the negroes were forced to confess the crime by "torture methods of officers of the law."

The majority opinion did not sanction the manner in which the confessions were obtained, but stated that attorneys failed to enter objections during the trial.

TENTH TIME MAY BE LAST

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

JACKSON, Miss., May 6.—Tom Carraway, gulf coast negro, facing his 10th execution date for a statutory offense, may go to the gallows May 31, unless Governor Conner intervenes.

Bidwell Adam, former lieutenant-governor and Carraway's attorney, conferred with the governor today concerning the respite, but was advised that a petition must be filed, and a public hearing held.

Through the legal maneuvers of his attorney, Carraway has dodged the hangman on nine previous engagements.

YOUNG PLANTER SLAIN BY NEGRO FARM HAND

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

Robert W. Scales, Fatally Wounds Attacker

SOUGHT TO TAKE GUN

Special To The Commercial Appeal

GREENWOOD, Miss., May 8.—Robert W. Scales, 26, prominent young planter of this county, was shot and killed this morning by a negro farm hand, after he had fatally wounded the negro.

It was said by the sheriff's force that Scales had had some trouble with the negro, Henry Jackson, and about 7 o'clock this morning went to the negro's home to obtain a gun which he understood Jackson was carrying.

Mr. Scales obtained the weapon, it is said, and was apparently attacked by the negro, who fired five times. During the exchange of shots the negro was shot three times. One shot pierced Mr. Scales' left breast.

Attacker Dies

Mr. Scales was born in Waynesboro, Ga., but had made his home here much of his life. He is survived by his wife, who was before her marriage, Miss Susan Malone of Greenwood, and one small daughter, Mary Pillow Scales; three uncles, Robert, Will and Walter Pillow, all of Greenwood, and three aunts, Mrs. Mattie Pillow Robinson, Mrs. Elizabeth Pillow Oliver, and Mrs. Addie Pillow Williamson, all of Greenville, Ga.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon at 4 o'clock at the First Presbyterian Church, with the Rev. J. P. Marion conducting the rites. Burial will be in the family burial ground at Brooklyn plantation.

POLICE PROBE SLAYING OF NEGRO PREACHER

MEMPHIS, Tenn., May 8.—(P)—Sheriff Sid Campbell of Hernando, Miss., said here today that he was investigating the slaying near Hernando of a negro preacher whose pockets

contained literature on the organization of sharecroppers and who wore an "every man a king" button in his coat lapel.

Sheriff Campbell said the body of the Rev. T. A. Thomas, a Marks, Miss., negro, was found in the shallow waters of the Coldwater river, just off highway 51, by a party of fishermen yesterday afternoon. He had been shot through the heart. The corpse, the sheriff said, was weighted down with chains about the waist, but was still floating.

Negro Held in Slaying.

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 31.—(P)—Zach Cockerel, 23, negro, was held in the county jail here today for safe-keeping after Sheriff A. W. Sugg. of Webster county, said, he had confessed killing Edward Wilson, 18, white, of Webster county.

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT TO HEAR CASE OF MISSISSIPPIAN WHITE PAIR HELD

JACKSON, Miss., May 16—(AP)—Yank Ellington, Henry Shields and Ed Brown will not die June 6 for the alleged murder of Raymond Stewart, white planter of Kemper county. 18-35

Tuesday Justice Sydney Smith, of the State Supreme court, granted a stay of execution to permit attorneys for the condemned men to place an appeal before the United States Supreme court.

Ellington, Shields and Brown were originally scheduled to die February 8. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People intervened, and carried their cases again to the Mississippi Supreme court.

When the case was first taken to the high court, the verdict of death was affirmed but a strong dissenting opinion, scoring the torturous methods used to obtain a confession, was written by Justice Anderson.

Two weeks ago, the Supreme court again affirmed the death sentence and set June 6 as the date of execution, but this time two justices dissented and both the minority and the majority opinions criticized the cruelty inflicted upon the men to force them to confess. However, the majority opinion held that counsel for the defendants failed to raise the issue of ill treatment at the right time.

Negro 10 Times Given Death Penalty Saved

JACKSON, MISS., May 28.—(AP)—Four years ago Tom Carraway, negro, stood in the courtroom at Pascagoula and heard the judge condemn him to death for an asserted attack on a white woman. 3-29-35

Today he stood in the bull pen of the Hinds County jail and learned that he is to be permitted to live.

Ten times during those four years the negro heard the death sentence intoned. Ten times his hopes for life were crushed to earth, only to rise again. Ten times he prepared for the march to the gallows. Montgomery, Ala.

Gov. Conner signed the commutation of the death sentence today and wired the sheriff of Jackson County to stay the execution and turn the negro over to the penitentiary authorities.

IN DIXIE MURDER Confess to Beating Worker to Death

CLARKSDALE, Miss., July 17.—A white couple were yesterday held responsible by the verdict of a coroner's jury for the death of an itinerant Negro worker, whose bruised and lifeless body was found in a gully at Friars Point community near here.

The verdict was returned after Mrs. George A. Harpole admitted that her husband had caused her to beat Cleve Gardner into insensibility with a heavy plank for alleged trespass on their property.

Gardner had come to their home and asked for a drink. He was refused and ordered away. As he was leaving Harpole arrived. Seeing Gardner he covered him with a rifle and forced him to lie a cross a gasoline drum while Mrs. Harpole thrashed him. Harpole and his wife now face murder charges.

ACCUSE COUPLE IN DEATH Man and Wife Charged With Fatal Beating Negro

FRIARS POINT, Miss., July 15.—A 24-year-old Friars Point white man and his wife were today charged with beating to death a negro, Cleve Gardner, when he came to their house allegedly for a drink of water.

The couple arrested are Mr. and Mrs. George A. Harpole. The attack is said to have occurred Friday. Deputy Sheriff N. A. Cartledge said Mrs. Harpole declared her husband never allowed negroes to come about the premises. The negro's body was found yesterday when it came to the surface of a barrow pit. The negro stumbled into the pit when allowed to leave the Harpole home. A coroner's jury today said Gardner came to "death by a severe beating by Mr. and Mrs. George A. Harpole."

Needless Tragedies

SEVEN Negroes were victims of homicide in Lee County during 1934. Five persons were killed in automobile accidents.

These are the figures shown by the state Department of Vital Statistics in the little booklet, "Needless Tragedies of 1934," just released.

Though 106 of the 471 persons murdered in Mississippi during 1934 were white, all seven of those in Lee County were colored. This fact becomes more striking when we realize that Lee County's colored population is comparatively sparse.

From this limited information it appears that lawlessness is more of a problem among the colored people of Lee County than in the state as a whole.

Both homicidal deaths and automobile fatalities turned sharply upward in 1934. The former increased 9.7 per cent, the latter 42.5 per cent.

The improvement which set in as the depression took hold of the state is now being reversed as prosperity is revived. Again we see the ugly effects of a little money in the pockets of the people. Again we face the fact that mankind needs not only material things, but education in how to use them soberly and wisely in achieving a better life.

Hang Negro for Slaying

GREENVILLE, Miss., Aug. 2.—(AP)—Oliver Buckner, 31-year-old negro farm laborer, was hanged at the county jail here today for the ax slaying of Martin Robinson, negro, on a nearby farm in July, 1933. "Please God, have mercy on my soul," was Buckner's last words as Sheriff Ben H. Gilbert sprung the trap at 8:24 a.m. He was dead 13 minutes later. Buckner was convicted of slaying Robinson with an ax as he tried to steal Robinson's clothing.

Accused Negro Slayer Gets Change Of Venue

WALTHALL, MISS., Nov. 26.—(AP)—With 200 armed National Guard preserving order, Judge John D. Cockrell today granted a change of venue to Zack Cockrell, young negro charged with killing Edward Wilson, 16-year-old white boy, and burning his house.

The court granted the change of venue at the request of defense counsel on the grounds that sentiment prevailing in Webster County would prevent the negro from obtaining a fair trial.

The case was transferred to Grenada, and the trial set for the January term of Circuit Court.

The negro, Judge Allen said, would be returned to the "mob-proof" Hinds County jail at Jackson, Miss.

PORTLAND, ORE. NEWS

DEC 9 1935

To the Rescue

JAMES M. BECK proudly announces that any American citizen, "however humble," who is "without means to defend his constitutional rights in a court of justice," can command free of charge the services of "one or more" members of the American Liberty league's committee of lawyers.

Here, indeed, is good news for the oppressed—free services of the nation's most expensive lawyers. Let the offer be accepted.

Let Mr. Beck and John W. Davis, whose legal services command premiums from such clients as the Edison Electric institute and the House of Morgan, be invited at once to help in the case of Tom Mooney. Tom certainly is without means. And how better serve the constitution than by gaining freedom for a man who has been in jail 19 years on a conviction obtained by perjured evidence? The constitution says no man shall be deprived of his liberty "without due process of law."

The league's president, Jouett Shouse, should be enlisted to appeal for a retrial of the three Mississippi negroes—Ed Brown, Henry Shields and Yank Ellington—whose conviction on a murder charge was based on a confession obtained by police torture. And maybe he will have time enough to sue for a fair trial for the Scottsboro boys.

Of course, these suggestions presume that Mr. Beck was not referring merely to those constitutional rights which flow from property.

Killings-1935

Mississippi

Tupelo, Miss., Journal
July 3, 1935

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MURDER CHARGED TO MISSISSIPPIAN

Body Found In 60-Foot Cistern
Farm Neighbor, Woman
Arrested, Indicted

HOUSTON, MISS., Aug. 21.—(P)—A white man charged with murdering his neighbor and throwing his body into a cistern in the southeastern section of this county was rushed to an unannounced jail today following his arrest.

Officers said they feared mob violence. The Sheriff's office reported that feeling was high against Jesse Nolan, 40-year-old farmer, who was arrested in connection with the strange death of Frank Stone, 43-year-old bachelor, whose mutilated body was found weighted down at the bottom of a 60-foot cistern.

Also under arrest was Mrs. Jim Bennett, at whose home Stone had made his home for several years. The husband, Jim Bennett, has been away from home recently at a CCC camp where he is employed. Mrs. Bennett was held on charges of aiding in the slaying of Stone, but was released under \$5,000 bond.

A coroner's inquest today, after hearing evidence presented by County Atty. H. B. Abernathy, was concluded with a verdict that Stone came to his death by a violent blow from a stick or blunt instrument "at the hands of Jesse Nolan."

Prosecutor Abernathy quoted Mrs. Bennett as saying that Nolan came to her home on the night of Sunday, Aug. 11, and after a difficulty there, struck Nolan with a stick. She said, Abernathy reported, that Nolan took Stone's lifeless body from the house, but that she did not know what he did with it.

A search had been in progress for the missing Stone since his disappearance with many neighbors joining in the hunt. The body was discovered in the old cistern about a mile from the Bennett home. Sheriff D. I. Neal said the head and face had been mutilated, with one eye pulled from its socket.

Acting upon information in his possession, Sheriff's officers arrested Mrs. Bennett and Nolan prior to the coroner's inquest today, and Mrs. Bennett, the officers said, made a statement concerning the slaying in which she assertedly named Nolan as the slayer.

Greenville Planter Shoots Down Peon; Murder Is Called 'Justifiable Homicide' "Mississippi Justice" Scores Another Victory When Planter Is Acquitted By All-White Jury.

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
October 18, 1935

A Strong Opinion

THREE illiterate Negroes were tortured into making a confession of a killing in Mississippi. Sentenced to be hanged, they appealed. It is said alibis for each are strong. The case reached the Supreme Court of Mississippi, and the death sentence was affirmed. Justice Virgil A. Griffith dissented.

In his opinion he objected to the use of a technicality to spring the death trap. A majority of the Court held that failure of the defense to object to the introduction of the confessions during the trial made it impossible to grant a new one on such grounds. Judge Griffiths wrote:

"To my mind it would be as becoming for a court to say a lynching party has become legitimate and legal because the victim, while being hung by the mob, did not object in the proper form of words at precisely the proper stage of the proceedings."

conclusion of his opinion is

a noteworthy piece of reasoning. He said:

"It may be that in a rarely occasional case which arouses the flaming indignation of a whole community, as was the case here, we shall continue yet for a long time to have outbreaks of the mob or resorts to its methods. But if mobs and mob methods must be, it would be better that their existence and their methods shall be kept wholly separate from the courts; that there shall be no blending of the devices of the mob and the proceedings of the courts; that what the mob has so nearly completed let them finish, and that no court shall by adoption give legitimacy to any of the works of the mob, nor cover by the frills and furbelows of a pretended legal trial the body of that which in fact is the product of the mob, and then by closing the eyes to the actualities, complacently adjudicate that the law of the land has been observed and preserved."

The fact that the alleged confessions were secured by torture and that grave doubt exists that either of the three was guilty, lends weight to the scholarly opinion.

GREENVILLE, Miss., Sept. 12—Mississippi justice scored another victory last Monday, when Jeff Locklar, manager of the Isham Evans plantation near Leota in the southern part of Washington county, was acquitted in the court of Justice of the Peace D. P. Shanahan on a charge of murdering

an unnamed Negro plantation worker. The killing was called justified homicide.

The murder was the result of an argument that arose between the two men, when the Negro sought to collect wages which Locklar refused to pay, because the Negro's time had been entered on the books. It is said that the Negro fired twice at the plantation boss, who then killed the Negro with a shotgun in "self defense."

Tupelo, Miss., Journal
July 8, 1935

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Though 106 of the 471 persons murdered in Mississippi during 1934 were white, all seven of those in Lee County were colored. This fact becomes more striking when we realize that Lee County's colored population is comparatively sparse.

From this limited information it appears that lawlessness is more of a problem among the colored people of Lee County than in the state as a whole.

Both homicidal deaths and automobile fatalities turned sharply upward in 1934. The former increased 9.7 per cent, the latter 42.5 per cent.

The improvement which set in as the depression took hold of the state is now being reversed as prosperity is revived. Again we see the ugly effects of a little money in the pockets of the people. Again we face the fact that mankind needs not only material things, but education in how to use them soberly and wisely in achieving a better life.

MURDER CHARGED

TO MISSISSIPPIAN

Body Found in 60-Foot Cistern
Farm Neighbor, Woman
Arrested, Indicted

HOUSTON, MISS., Aug. 21.—(AP)—A white man charged with murdering his neighbor and throwing his body into a cistern in the southeastern section of the county was indicted today for the murder of a woman.

Officers said they seized mob violence. The Sheriff's office reported that the man was charged with the murder of a woman, a 40-year-old farmer, who was arrested in connection with the strange death of Frank Stone, 43-year-old bachelor, whose body was found weighed down at the bottom of a 60-foot cistern.

Also under arrest was Mrs. Jim Bennett, at whose home Stone had made his home for several years. The husband, Jim Bennett, has been away from home recently at a CCC camp where he is employed. Mrs. Bennett was held on charge of aiding in the slaying of Stone, but a coroner's inquest today, after hearing evidence presented by County Atty. H. B. Abernathy, was concluded with a verdict that Stone came to his death by a violent blow from a stick or blunt instrument "at the hands of Jesse Nolan."

Prosecutor Abernathy quoted Mrs. Bennett as saying that Nolan came to her home on the night of Sunday, Aug. 11, and after a difficulty there, struck Nolan with a stick. She said, Abernathy reported, that Nolan took Stone's lifeless body from the house, but that she did not know what he did with it.

A search had been in progress for the missing Stone since his disappearance with many neighbors joining in the hunt. The body was discovered in the old cistern about a mile from the Bennett home. Sheriff D. I. Neal said the head and face had been mutilated, with one eye pulled from its socket. Acting upon information in his possession, Sheriff's officers arrested Mrs. Bennett and Nolan prior to the coroner's inquest today, and Mrs. Bennett, the officers said, made a statement concerning the slaying in which she assertedly named Nolan as the slayer.

Greenville Planter Shoots Down Peon; Murder Is Called 'Justifiable Homicide'

"Mississippi Justice" Scores Another Victory When
Planter Is Acquitted By All-White Jury.

GREENVILLE, Miss., Sept. 12—Mississippi justice scored another victory last Monday, when Jeff Locklar, manager of the Isham Evans plantation near Leota in the southern part of Washington county, was acquitted in the court of Justice of the Peace D. P. Shanahan on a charge of murdering in unnamed Negro plantation worker. The killing was called justified homicide.

The murder was the result of an argument that arose between the two men, when the Negro sought to collect wages which Locklar refused to pay, because the Negro's time had not been entered on the books. It is said that the Negro fired twice at the plantation boss, who then killed the Negro with a shotgun in "self defense."

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
October 18, 1935
A Strong Opinion

THREE illiterate Negroes were tortured into making a confession of a killing in Mississippi. Sentenced to be hanged, they appealed. It is said alibis for each are strong. The case reached the Supreme Court of Mississippi, and the death sentence was affirmed. Justice Virgil A. Griffith dissented.

In his opinion he objected to the use of a technicality to spring the death trap. A majority of the Court held that failure of the defense to object to the introduction of the confessions during the trial made it impossible to grant a new one on such grounds. Judge Griffiths wrote:

"To my mind it would be as becoming for a court to say a lynch party has become legitimate and legal because the victim, while being hung by the mob, did not object in the proper form of words at precisely the proper stage of the proceedings."

a noteworthy piece of reasoning. He said: "It may be that in a rare case of casual case which arouses the flaming indignation of a whole community, as was the case here, we shall continue yet for a long time to have outbreaks of the mob or resorts to its methods. But if it would be better that their existence and their methods shall be kept wholly separate from the courts; that there shall be no blending of the devices of the mob and the proceedings of the courts; that what the mob has so nearly completed let them finish, and make it impossible to any of the works of the mob, nor cover by the frills and furbelows of a pretended legal trial the body of that which in fact is the product of the mob, and then by closing the eyes to the actualities, complacently adjudicate being hung by the mob, did not object in the proper form of words at precisely the proper stage of the proceedings." The fact that the alleged confessions were secured by torture and that grave doubt exists that either of the three was guilty, lends weight to the scholarly opinion.

Mississippi

Killings-1935

Gallows Rope Stifles Laugh Of Negro Ghoul

CLEVELAND, MISS., March 6.—(P)—The National Guard had come and gone, and Alonzo B. Robinson, alias James H. Coyner, giant negro ghou, confessed slayer and suspected cannibal, had been hanged and buried before Cleveland awoke yesterday. The law had run its course, with dispatch.

The surprising swiftness with which the State sent the 40-year-old Southern-born, Northern-reared negro to his doom, in the early morning hours left disappointment to replace the high feeling engendered by the crime which brought threats of mob violence and the guardsmen to prevent it.

Without any lost motion, under the watchful eye of a special detail of 300 to 300 National Guardsmen, the State executed Robinson's life by the slaying and mutilation of Mrs. Aurelius B. Turner, who with her husband was hacked to death in their home here last December.

In darkness and new rain that kept all but a few at home, the guardsmen delivered the six-foot-four negro to Bolivar County authorities about 3:45 a.m. today, after transporting him over a devious route from the Hinds County Jail at Jackson to the Bolivar County Court-cannibalism, denied any connection with the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Turner when he was first arrested, but under persistent questioning he admitted the crime, giving as his only excuse an urge "to kill some-

body." He is survived by two daughters, Irene, 16; Bertyle, 11; a son, Willard, 7, and several brothers living in Lawrence County.

He was tried only for the death of Mrs. Turner.

Coyner started the death march at 4:15 a.m. He was pronounced dead 12 minutes after the trap had been sprung.

Asked if he wanted to pray, Coyner replied: "How can I pray when there is no preacher here?"

While his hands were being strapped to his legs as he stood on the scaffold, the negro said he "wanted a preacher," but a little later laughed a bit, and left his hearers in doubt as to what he meant.

When Sheriff McLean asked him if he would like to pray, he replied, "How can I pray without a preacher. I don't see any preacher here." Then he laughed.

The hefty Robinson maintained his professed fatalism and indifference to death to the last. Just before the black hood and the noose were placed over his head, he laughed again at something. It was his last laugh. A moment later, the sheriff sprung the trap.

GALLOWS ENDS LIFE OF COUPLE'S SLAYER Militia Guards Last Moments of Coyner at Cleveland

CLEVELAND, Miss., March 5.—(INS)—With national guardsmen patrolling the courthouse lawn, lapel and carried papers indicating James Coyner, giant negro, who he confessed murdering Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Turner, died on the gallows here early today.

Surrounded by guardsmen, who kept watch over him during his trial here a month ago, Coyner was brought here during the night from Jackson, where he had been held in jail.

Barbed wire entanglements had been erected around the courthouse lawn to keep back the crowds that might gather, and machine guns were mounted at strategic points.

The hour for the execution had been kept secret, and only about 50 persons, most of them officers, were permitted to witness the hanging. The town remained orderly throughout the night.

Coyner, suspected by officers of cannibalism, denied any connection with the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Turner when he was first arrested, but under persistent questioning he admitted the crime, giving as his only excuse an urge "to kill some-

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Mississippi Negro Who Shot Man Found Dead

MONTICELLO, MISS., March 25.—(AP)—A negro accused of critically wounding a white farmer near here Saturday night was found dead today, only a few hundred yards from the scene of the week-end shooting, with a shotgun wound in the neck.

A coroner's jury returned a verdict saying the negro, R. J. Tyrone, 33, came to his death by his own hand.

Officers said there had been some expressions of outraged feeling against the negro in the vicinity of Evans's home after the shooting.

Negro Preacher Found Shot Dead

Papers Indicate Interest in
Sharecroppers' Unit

HERNANDO, Miss., March 29 (AP)—A Negro preacher who wore an "Ever Man a King" button in his patrolling the courthouse lawn, lapel and carried papers indicating James Coyner, giant negro, who he confessed murdering Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Turner, died on the gallows here early today.

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Mississippi.

MISSISSIPPI WINNER IN DEATH TRIAL CASE

State High Court Asks for
Copy of Extension Order

CONVICTED IN KEMPER

Three Negroes Accused of Murder in Death of Raymond Stewart, Planter, Face Gallows—Other Rulings

From Jackson, Miss., Bureau of The Commercial Appeal

JACKSON, Miss., March 25.—The state won a round in its effort to uphold the death sentence of three Kemper County negroes, when the supreme court today ordered the trial court to send up a certified copy of the order extending for two weeks the term of court officers as that of B. S. Tygome, 33, at which the negroes were convicted of the murder and attempted cremation of Raymond Stewart, white farmer, Saturday night, was found today in the woods near Tygome's home.

Defense counsel had contended that since the trial took place after a regular term and since there is nothing in the supreme court record to show that the term was extended, the negroes should be freed as having been tried outside a legal court term.

The court ordered reinstatement of an appeal of J. C. McFarlane convicted last fall on an indictment charging that he received deposits as president of the Commercial Bank & Trust Co. of Aberdeen "knowing or having reason to believe that the same was insolvent."

In overruling a suggestion of error in the case against Oscar Allen and Willie Allen, the high court refused to dismiss charges against Oscar Allen, the father. The pair had been convicted of manslaughter in the death of Elmer Gravette, a road contractor.

Other decisions handed down: By Griffith, J.: Sylvia G. Bullard vs. Citizens National Bank, chancery, Lauderdale. Affirmed in part and in part reversed and remanded.

New Orleans & Northeastern Railroad Co. vs. B. W. Wheat, circuit, Pearl River. Reversed and remanded.

T. J. Hodges et al vs. Town of Drew, Suggestion of error overruled.

B. F. Lampton et al vs. F. La

Stevens, Motion to reinstate overruled.

J. C. McFarlane vs. state. Motion to reinstate. Sustained.

Anderson, J.: Chase National Bank vs. C. B. Chapman, circuit, Sunflower. Reversed and remanded.

Mrs. Eddie Flowers vs. Tom Trotter, circuit, Warren. Affirmed.

Oscar Allen and Willie Allen vs. state, circuit, Kemper. Suggestion of error overruled.

Ethridge, P. J.: Deposit Guaranty Bank & Trust Co. vs. Emery C Mangum, chancery, Simpson. Reversed and remanded.

C. H. McCandless vs. H. L. Clark et al, circuit, Yazoo. Suggestion of error overruled.

Joe Cangelosi vs. State, circuit, Pike. Suggestion of error overruled.

Gulf & Ship Island Railroad Co. vs. Laurel Oil & Fertilizer Co. Motion to correct judgment sustained.

En banc: Ed Brown vs. State motion for certiorari. Sustained.

SOUGHT IN SHOOTING, NEGRO FOUND DEAD

MONTICELLO, Miss., March 25.—(P)—A negro's body identified by officers as that of B. S. Tygome, 33, at which the negroes were convicted of the murder and attempted cremation of Raymond Stewart, white farmer, Saturday night, was found today in the woods near Tygome's home.

The body bore gunshot wounds. A coroner's jury, summoned by Sheriff W. J. Bourn, returned a verdict declaring the case "suicide."

SURPRISED PROWLER KILLED IN WINONA

Negro Felled by Deputy's Gunfire

WINONA, Miss., April 5.—When trapped in the home of Jimmy Cox which he entered to ransack at 1 a.m., today, Duke Anthony, 16, negro, fought with Mr. Cox and Deputy Sheriff Tom Thompson the entire length of the house before he collapsed from 10 bullet wounds in his body and died on the kitchen floor.

With the living room light left on as was customary, Mrs. Cox was awakened by Jimmy, Jr., two years old, who wanted water. As she reached for a table, she saw the negro crawling into the room. With rare presence of mind, she kept talking to the baby and the negro withdrew. Then she awakened Mr. Cox in the next room, who obtained a pistol. Meantime Mrs. Cox had telephoned Thompson, who lived nearby, and was trying to get out the window.

Whites Kill Pastor Who Begged For Relief

HERNANDO, Miss., April 5 (By the Continental Press)—An unmistakable dislike for our people who are interested in, or sympathetic toward, getting relief for their poverty stricken brothers of the share-cropping class was indicated here Friday, when the body of the Reverend T. A. Allen of Marks, Miss., was found shot to death and weighted with trace chains about his waist, in a river near here.

Details as to his murderers are weighted with heavy chains and unavailable at present. The clue to his being "objectionable" was a button which was found in his lapel which bore the words, "Every Man a King." He also carried literature which indicated he was interested in and sympathetic toward the poverty stricken share-croppers of whom there are several millions in the Southland among both white and negro farmers.

On his coat lapel was a Huey Long button with the motto, "Every Man a King." In his pocket was literature urging share croppers to organize a farm union.

NEGRO'S DEATH MYSTERY Preacher-Organizer Shot Thrown In Coldwater River

HERNANDO, Miss., April 2. — Sheriff Sid Campbell said today that he had been unable to unearth any clues as to the identities of the assailants of a negro preacher whose body was found in the shallow waters of the Coldwater River near here last Thursday.

The negro, Rev. T. A. Allen, of Marks, Miss., wore an "every man a king" button in his coat lapel. In his pockets were notes dealing with the organization of sharecroppers and tenant farmers, the sheriff said. He was shot through the heart. The body was weighted down with trace chains.

We Lynch a Preacher

Defenders of lynching used to boast that this crime would be unknown if it were not for rape. Lynching, they said, was the special punishment for men who crossed the color line in sex.

If there be still any person with mis-information of this type, his attention should be called to the lynching of the Rev. T. A. Allen, of Marks, Miss., last week.

The minister was a good citizen and minded his own business. He violated no law, but he was

NEGROES MUST HANG FOR FARMER'S DEATH

June 6 Set as Execution Date
by Supreme Court

TWO JUSTICES DISSENT

Jurists Score County Officials
for Allegedly Torturing Trio
to Force Confessions in Kemper County Slaying

BY KENNETH TOLER
From Jackson, Miss., Bureau of
The Commercial Appeal

JACKSON, Miss., April 29.—Three Kemper County negroes, who confessed the murder of a farmer, after allegedly being "coerced by the barbarities of executive officers of the state," were ordered by the supreme court today to be hanged June 6.

Justices V. A. Griffith and W. D. Anderson refused to concur in the opinion, however, and in a separate opinion scored county officials for allegedly torturing the negroes in order to force confessions.

The negroes are Ed Brown, Yank Ellington and Henry Shields. The slain man was Raymond Stewart of Kemper County.

Majority Opinion

Taking cognizance of the asserted "torture" method of the officers, the majority opinion written by Chief Justice Sydney Smith said:

"Nothing herein said is intended to even remotely sanction the method by which these confessions were obtained."

The court's decision was in overruling a suggestion of error filed by Brewer and Hewitt, defense attorneys.

Chief Justice Smith pointed out that the negroes were represented by "able lawyers of extensive practice and they made no move to have the confessions excluded, although the jury was sent out of the courtroom during arguments as to whether they should be introduced."

As to this contention, Justices Griffith and Anderson in the dissenting opinion said:

"To affirm the sentences, to our minds, would be as becoming a court to say that a lynching party has become legitimate and legal because the victim, while being hung by the mob, did not object in the proper form of at precisely the proper stage of the proceedings."

"In our opinion," they continued, "there is neither proper form of words, nor any proper stage of the proceedings in any such case as the record of the so-called trial now before us discloses. It was never a legitimate proceeding from beginning to end—it was never anything but a fictitious continuation of the mob which originally instituted and engaged in the admitted tortures."

Appeal Road Opened

Opening the way for an appeal to the United States Supreme Court, the dissenters continued:

"If this judgment be affirmed by the federal supreme court, it will be the first time in the history of that court wherein there was allowed to stand a conviction based solely upon testimony coerced by the barbarities of executive officers of the state, known to the prosecuting officers of the state as having been so coerced, when the testimony was introduced and fully shown in all its nakedness to the trial judge before he closed the case and submitted it to the jury, and when all this is not fully undisputed but is expressly and openly admitted."

To the suggestion that the state and federal constitutional sections of liberty and due process of law had been violated, the majority opinion stated that "no charge either of perjury or the suppression of evidence is here made. On the contrary, all of the facts to the confessions being coerced were known to the appellants when they were offered and were provable by their own personal testimony."

"All litigants, of every race or color, are equal at the bar of this court," Chief Justice Smith continued, "and we would feel deeply humiliated if the contrary could be justly said."

In reviewing the record, Justice Griffith pointed out that Ellington,

after consistently denying any connection with the murder, was seized by a deputy sheriff and others, "hanged by a rope to the limb of a tree, let down and hanged again. And still protesting his innocence, was tied to a tree and whipped, and still declining to accede to the demands that he confess, released and returned home."

Whipped by Deputy

"A day or two thereafter, Deputy Dial returned and arrested Ellington, and in taking him to another county, went by way of Alabama, and while on the way the deputy stopped and again severely whipped the defendant, declaring he would continue the whipping until he confessed, and defendant then agreed to confess to such a statement as the deputy would dictate and he did so," continued Justice Griffith.

"The other defendants, Brown and Shields, were also arrested, taken to the same jail, and on Sunday, April 19, 1934, the same deputy, accompanied by a number of white men, stripped the negroes, laid them over chairs and their backs were cut to pieces with a leather strap with buckles on it; and they were likewise made by the said deputy definitely to understand that the whipping would be continued unless and until they confessed, and not only confessed, but confessed in every matter of detail as demanded by those present, and in this same manner the defendants confessed the crime."

"As the whippings progressed and were repeated," continued Judge Griffith, "they changed or adjusted their confession in all particulars of detail so as to conform to the demands of their torturers."

"All this having been accomplished, on the next day, when the defendants had been given time to recuperate somewhat from the tortures to which they had been subjected, the two sheriffs, one of the county where the crime was committed and the other of the county of the jail in which the prisoners were confined, came to the jail, accompanied by eight other persons, some of them deputies, there to hear the free and voluntary confession of these miserable and abject defendants."

"The sheriff of the county of the crime admitted he had heard of the whipping, but averred that he had no personal knowledge of it."

The Mississippi Power Company was ordered by the court to pay dollar for dollar on stock sold to W. Ollie Bennett, in Pearl River County.

Other decisions rendered by Division "A" follow:

BY JUDGE J. G. M'GOWEN:

I. C. Enoch, Jr., vs. Bank of Forest; chancery, Hinds; reversed and remanded only as to sale of collateral.

Harry (alias) Percy Jones vs. State, circuit, Warren; reversed and appellant discharged.

Bessie Bradford vs. State; circuit, Monroe; affirmed.

E. C. Weston et al vs. Merchants Bank & Trust Company; circuit, Hancock; affirmed.

Plant Flour Mills Company vs. Sanders & Ellis; circuit, Leake; suggestion of error overruled.

Annie P. Solomon vs. Continental Baking Co.; circuit, Coahoma; suggestion of error overruled.

J. C. Penney Co. vs. Mrs. Lillie Evans; circuit, Harrison; suggestion of error overruled.

O. F. Street vs. Town of Ripley; motion to advance sustained and case set for May 13.

BY JUDGE W. H. COOK:

Thomas K. Green et al vs. Board of Supervisors of Adams County; chancery, Adams; reversed and proceedings dismissed.

Lee Calhoun vs. State; circuit, Adams; reversed and appellant discharged.

New York Life Insurance Co. vs. Mrs. Mary T. Majet; circuit, Leflore; affirmed.

Mrs. Hester Franklin vs. Leake County Bank; circuit, Leake; affirmed.

J. A. Blount vs. Frank Miller, trustee; circuit, Leflore; suggestion of error overruled.

Superior Oil Co., et al. vs. Elma Richmond, et al.; circuit, Harrison; suggestion of error overruled.

BY CHIEF JUSTICE SYDNEY SMITH:

H. E. Hales vs. State; circuit, Smith; affirmed.

Tom Hodge vs. State; circuit, Calhoun; affirmed.

Homer Pickle vs. State; circuit, Neshoba; reversed and remanded.

Sun Life Assurance Co., et al. vs. Sarah Robinson McGee; circuit, Leflore; reversed and remanded.

Board of Supervisors of Neshoba County vs. City of Philadelphia; circuit, Neshoba; suggestion of error overruled.

BY THE COURT EN BANC:

Mississippi Power Co. vs. W. O. Bennett; circuit, Pearl River; affirmed. Ethridge dissenting.

Mississippi Power Co. vs. Mrs. Pearl House May; circuit, Pearl River; reversed and remanded.

Ed Brown, et al. vs. State; circuit, Kemper; suggestion of error overruled. Griffith and Anderson dissenting.

Hope From the South

ESPIE THE fact that intervention of the governor or the United States Supreme Court is the sole hope of three Negroes facing hanging for murder in Mississippi, the minority decision of that state's Supreme Court in the case last week is heartening, and bodes hope for a new understanding of justice in the South.

The three men are scheduled to die June 6 for the alleged slaying of a planter. The lower court convicted them largely on their reputed confession—given when they were in the hands of a mob and had ropes around their necks. Associate Justice Virgil Griffith held that "to confirm the lower court findings would be as becoming a court as to say that lynching has become legitimate and legal, because the victim . . . hung up by the mob, did not object in the proper form of words. . . ."

His confrere, Justice W. D. Henderson, added: "They were denied due process—a fair and impartial trial. Leaving out the confessions, the evidence was wholly insufficient to sustain conviction."

Can the State of Mississippi or the United States Supreme Court permit these men to die in the face of such a convincing minority?

Killings - 1935

Mississippi.

Fatalistic Negro Ghoul Laughs At Prospects Of Hanging For Murder

JACKSON, MISS., Jan. 16—(P)—Dist. Atty. Greek P. Rice, of Clarksdale, said late tonight James H. Coyner, giant negro ghoulish and suspected cannibal, held here for safekeeping, had confessed the killing of Mr. and Mrs. Aurelius B. Turner, at Cleveland, Miss., last Dec. 9.

JACKSON, MISS., Jan. 16—(P)—Turning a prosecutor's grilling into a discussion of his philosophy of fatalism, James H. Coyner, giant negro ghoulish charged with the "butcher" slaying of a Bolivar County couple last month, shocked his questioners today with a loud laugh at the grim prospect of mounting the gallows for the crime.

"What is to be, will be," he said, laconically when his laughing was over and officers accused him of being a "cannibal."

The negro, paroled last June from the Indiana Penitentiary where he served a term for robbery of a grave, is charged with the slaying of Aurelius B. Turner and his wife in their home near Cleveland, Dec. 9.

Pieces of "salted and cured human flesh with the imprint of teeth thereon" allegedly were found in a suitcase belonging to Coyner. Thursday an exhumation will be made at Cascilla to compare the find by officers with parts severed from the Turner woman's body.

Though the negro denies any part in the crime, officers said he was wearing Turner's watch when he was arrested in the Cleveland postoffice last Saturday.

A lengthy questioning by Dist. Atty. Greek Rice and other officers in the Hindoo court jail today yielded little more than a voluble discourse from the negro on his philosophy.

Asked by the district attorney if he had anything to say before he was brought to trial Feb. 4 at Cleveland, with a hanging certain if he is convicted, the burly Coyner replied:

"I believe in predestination. I believe that what is to be, will be; that everything we do or say is predestined and that we have no control over it."

"Do you know that you can be hanged on a conviction of murder, and that is what you are being tried for?" Rice asked.

"Well," Coyner chuckled a bit, "I'm a fatalist, I believe in fatalism. There's nothing I can do about it if you want to try me for murder and then want to hang me."

"What were you doing with human flesh in your suitcase?" Rice shot at him.

"The last time I saw my suitcase there wasn't anything in it like that," the negro replied.

Rice revealed that other evidence against the negro included a pair of

sneakers he allegedly wore when footprints discovered near the Turner home, a box of colored crayon, which was similar to that used in writing obscene statements on buildings in Cleveland, and a pack of 54 obscene letters alleged written by Coyner and addressed to women in different sections of the country.

FIEND VICTIM'S BODY MAY BE DISINTERRED

Court May Hold Special Session for Trial

NEGRO HELD IN JAIL Bolivar County Willing to Pay

Added Costs in Order to Get Speedy Hearing of the Evidence

A court order for the exhumation of the body of Mrs. Aurelius B. Turner, who was murdered with her husband at their home in Cleveland, Miss., Dec. 9, will be requested today by Greek Rice, district attorney of the Cleveland judicial circuit, Mr. Rice said here yesterday. A special session of court for the trial of James Coyner, 39-year-old negro ex-convict who is accused of the crime, will be called about Feb. 1, Circuit Judge W. A. Alcorn of Bolivar County, indicated last night to Chancellor Jackson at Cleveland. Law requires that the session be called 20 days before the trial is held.

Members of the board of supervisors of Bolivar County, at a meeting with citizens of Cleveland yesterday, expressed themselves as willing to pay the costs of a special term in order to have an immediate trial, according to County Attorney Green.

Held In Jail

Coyner, arrested in the Cleveland postoffice Saturday morning by Deputy Sheriff Charles Maddox and Postoffice Inspector R. T. Rock, was taken to Greenwood for safekeeping. He was later removed to another unannounced jail.

Officers said that they found Mr. Turner's watch and pistol in the negro's pockets, together with threatening letters to Memphis and

Cleveland women. At Coyner's home the officers said that they found the knife believed to have been used in mutilating the body of Mr. Turner.

Coyner was trapped in the Cleveland postoffice when he called for an Indianapolis newspaper. Inspector Rock was seeking the sender of several threatening letters to Indianapolis women from various Mississippi towns. He suspected Coyner after learning that he subscribed to the Indianapolis paper.

Coyner is a paroled convict from an Indiana state prison. He served seven years of a 10-year sentence for moving dead bodies from cemeteries and attempting to sell them to medical schools.

DUAL MURDER LAID

TO NEGRO, JAILED

Suspect Is Arrested in Postoffice at Cleveland

LINKED TO TURNER DEATHS

Mailing of Threat Letters Brings Arrest—Rushed to Safekeeping—Disarmed by Deputy, U. S. Officer

Special to The Commercial Appeal

CLEVELAND, Miss., Jan. 12.—Trapped in the postoffice here this morning through threatening letters he is said to have mailed, James A. Coyner, 39, negro, was found in postoffice of the watch stand by the 1, Circuit Judge W. A. Alcorn of Bolivar County, indicated last night to Aurelius B. Turner during the night of last Dec. 8.

Stuck in his belt was a .38 caliber revolver—the same size as the one used to shoot Turner—and in his pocket was a packet of unmailed letters addressed to women in several cities similar to those received by residents here and at Merigold in recent weeks.

Tonight, while District Attorney Greek Rice was preparing to file first degree murder charges against him, the negro was safe in jail in another city, presumably Greenwood, where Deputy Sheriff Charles Maddox, who helped make the arrest, took him for safe keeping.

Rufus Roy Freed

General Rice said he would confer with Judge Alcorn in Clarksdale on calling a special term of court to try the suspect. Mr. Rice also ordered the release of Rufus Lee

Roy, formerly related by marriage to the Turners, who had been held several weeks as a suspect.

In the absence of Dr. McLean, sheriff, deputies took charge of the case and made a thorough search of the home of Lettie Wheeler, mother of Coyner, with whom he had been living. A long-bladed knife, woman's clothing and other incriminating evidence was found in Coyner's room.

Officers said that a Merigold jeweler who had worked on Turner's watch and had kept the serial numbers, had identified the one found on the negro as belonging to the murdered man.

The family of R. T. Davis of Merigold, whose home was invaded by a negro early on the night of last Nov. 8, will be given an opportunity, probably Sunday, to identify Coyner as their assailant. This negro, armed with a pistol, ordered Mrs. Davis and two grown daughters to lie on the floor while he tied them up, but Davis himself appeared and the negro fled, after firing once at Davis.

Is Former Convict

Coyner, although admitting that he had served nearly eight years in the Indiana state prison for stealing bodies from graves to sell to medical authorities, refuses to discuss the Cleveland case, Maddox said. He remained silent to all questions, but officers were awaiting the return of Sheriff McLean tomorrow to resume the questioning.

The negro's arrest was brought about with assistance of U. S. Postoffice Inspector R. T. Rock, who has been working on the case since several citizens at Merigold and at Cleveland had received insulting letters. Some of these threatened they would suffer the same fate as Mrs. Turner.

The bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Turner, beaten and disfigured with a hammer, were found in bed at their home by a maid when she came to work. The Turners' son, Aurelius B. Turner, Jr., 6, had been beaten over the head with the hammer. Though unconscious when found, he recovered. An infant child in the bedroom was unharmed.

Turner, in addition to the rain of blows from the hammer, had been shot through the head, and his wife's body was mutilated.

GHOUL CONVICTED AT MURDER TRIAL

Coyner, Guilted by Mississippi Troops, Is Sentenced to Hang for Dual Killing

CLEVELAND, Miss., Feb. 4 (P)—After a dramatic plea by District Attorney Greek P. Rice, who displayed three pieces of human flesh in front of the jury, James H. Coyner, giant Negro ghoulish, was convicted tonight of the murder and mutilation of Mrs. Aurelius B. Turner, and his punishment fixed at death by hanging.

Judge W. W. Alcorn fixed March 5 as the date for the Negro's hanging. National guardsmen who turned the Bolivar county court house into a fort this morning to preserve law and order, prepared to move out of there before midnight to place the Negro in jail at Jackson, Miss., for safe keeping.

Coyner, also known as Alonzo Robinson, did not take the stand and the state relied largely on the confession he allegedly made to Jackson, Miss., officers that he killed Mrs. Turner and her husband at their home near Cleveland, Dec. 8, and cut pieces of flesh from Mrs. Turner's body.

Bits of Flesh Exhibited

As he pleaded with the jury for the life of the Negro, District Attorney Rice picked up a piece from beneath the counsel table and lifted a burlap bag from it. He tossed what he said were three pieces of flesh cut from the body of Mrs. Turner, on top of the sack and directed the jury's attention to them.

"I am asking for the life of the man who committed this terrible crime," the district attorney said. "He beat out this woman's brains and hit an old man with a hatchet because he had the impulse to kill."

Earlier, while the national guardsmen patrolled the courthouse and commanded every approach, the Negro was indicted for murder by the Bolivar county grand jury. He quickly pleaded "not guilty" to the charges, a move which took authorities by surprise, as Coyner had been quoted by officers previously as confessing the slayings.

The grand jury returned separate indictments in the cases of Turner and his wife, and Coyner was called to trial first for the killing of Mrs. Turner. The couple was slain and the bodies mutilated in the Turner home last Dec. 8.

Judge William A. Alcorn, presiding, appointed two attorneys to de-

tend Coyner, who also is known as Alonzo Robinson. The burly Negro once served a term in the Indiana penitentiary for grave robbing, and officers said he also had admitted stealing the skulls of several women from graves in Michigan.

No Signs of Disorder

While the jury was being empaneled today a large crowd, mostly men, filled the courtroom but there was no evidence of disorder. Soldiers bearing rifles with fixed bayonets sat in the witness chairs between the court and the spectators, while other guardsmen were stationed at vantage points throughout the building.

The arrival of Coyner in Cleveland early this morning from Jackson was marked by extraordinary precautions to prevent any possible trouble. Some threats of mob violence had been heard here.

The Negro, manacled, was brought here in what national guard officers described as a "lynch-proof" baggage car attached to a special train. Two hundred steel-helmeted soldiers manned the train and a system of signals had been worked out for rerouting it in the event conditions in Cleveland warranted such action.

Machine guns and barbed wire entanglements were set up around the courthouse, but the town remained peaceful throughout the day.

Times, News Journal
January 17, 1935

THEY WON'T NEED ANY GUARDS

James Coyner, negro cannibal, has confessed murdering the Turners in Cleveland several months ago.

He says that he wanted to kill somebody and decided to take it out on this family.

Sheriff E. R. McLean says that he will not need the protection of national guards when this negro is tried at Cleveland.

That is one time that the guards should stay at home. In fact it is the only time that we can remember that we ever did want to see the guards away at a trial for murder. But this is an unbelievable crime, and this prehistoric monster should have to pay until it hurts.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE RUSHES AID TO MISSISSIPPI

ORGANIZATION ASKS FOR IMMEDIATE FUNDS TO
HELP IN SECURING OF FAIR TRIALS FOR THREE
CONVICTED MEN

Appeals Case To United States Supreme Court

NEW YORK, Feb. 7.—In a strongly worded dissenting opinion, Justice Anderson of the Mississippi Supreme Court has roundly condemned the conviction of Henry Shields, Ed Brown and Yank Ellington, three Negroes accused of murdering Raymond Stewart, a white farmer. They are sentenced to die February 8.

"Leaving out the confessions, the evidence was wholly insufficient to sustain the conviction," man, whether agreeably or by Judge Anderson declares, "the evidence showed without any substantial conflict that appellants were driven to confess their guilt by most brutal and unmerciful whippings and beatings at the hands of persons who doubtless thought they were getting away with it. Wipe out these confessions, and the court would have been forced to direct a verdict of not guilty. The court had staring it in the face this incompetent testimony without which there could be no conviction. Must the lives of the appellants be taken by the law, because their counsel failed to bring to the attention of the court this incompetent evidence? Are they without remedy?"

Cites Scottsboro Case
"Viewing this trial as a whole, it appears to me that it is condemned by the principles laid down by the Supreme Court of the United States in the Scottsboro cases. Appellants were denied due process—a fair and impartial trial. They were represented by counsel who had neither time nor opportunity to do their part. Due process requires representation by counsel, either employed by the accused or appointed by the court. The court held in the Alabama cases that in some quarters there appeared to be very little regard for that provision of the bill of rights guaranteeing persons charged with crime from being forced to give evidence against themselves (Section 26 of the Constitution). The pincers, the rack, the hose, the third degree, or their equivalent, are still used."

There is no other evidence against the condemned men.

"Trial" Record For Speed; "Defense" a Joke

Arrested and indicted five days after the murder, the three men were tried and convicted two days later. Although four white lawyers were appointed to defend the Negroes, one failed to show up at the trial and another failed to join in the appeal to the Supreme Court. The two who did act failed to object to the brutally extracted "confessions" without which the evidence was wholly insufficient to convict. No witnesses were called at the "trial."

Rumor Women In Case
Rumor has it that Stewart was

RICHMOND, VA.

TIMES DISPATCH

FEB 8 1935

Mississippi Improves

IN 1934, Mississippi's record for law and order was exceedingly bad. Its mobsters turned in six lynchings, which gave it first rating in the list of States whose citizens reverted during the year to this barbaric practice. All the other States in the Union lynched only nine persons between them during 1934.

In some degree, at least, Mississippi has made amends and vindicated its civilization in handling the case of JAMES COYNER. This Negro appears as the prize brute of the century. Not only did he murder AURELIUS B. TURNER and his wife for no apparent reason, battering out the woman's brains, but he cut portions of Mrs. TURNER's flesh from her body and preserved them as ghastly evidence of his crime.

Yet COYNER was not lynched. The State took every precaution against any such eventuality. He has been closely guarded since the crime. Two hundred National Guardsmen escorted him from Cleveland to Jackson for his trial. At the courthouse they set up sand bags and barbed wire entanglements to make his defense more secure. After he was sentenced to hang on March 4, the soldiers returned with him to Jackson, where every effort is being made to thwart the plans of any citizens who may be inclined to surrender to barbaric instincts and cheat the gallows.

The fact such protection has been afforded COYNER, and that no attempt has been made on the man's life is an indication, at least, that Mississippians are more disposed now than they were last year to

LAW OBSERVANCE URGED FOR TRIAL

Mississippi Students Seek Order In Slaying Case

CLEVELAND, Miss., Jan. 30.—(P)—Students of Delta State Teachers College here have adopted a resolution urging observance of the law by citizens at the trial in Cleveland Feb. 4 of James Coyner, Negro, charged with the slaying of Mr. and Mrs. Aurelius B. Turner.

Coyner is held in jail at Jackson, Miss., pending his trial. Dist. Atty. Greek Rice has said Coyner has made a statement, admitting the slayings.

The students' resolution in part follows:

"We ask all citizens to support us in this petition for the observance of law and order. We earnestly ask all citizens to maintain the honor and integrity of our courts and uphold our constituted government and the authority of the law in this county."

Killings-1935

Mississippi

Cannibalism Is Charged To Negro Grave Robber Held In Mississippi

JACKSON, MISS., Jan. 14.—(AP)—Cannibalism surged to the front today in the investigation of James H. Coyner, huge negro grave robber, charged with the brutal double slaying in Cleveland, Miss., early in December of Aurelius B. Turner and his wife.

Startling charges were made by County Attorney E. H. Green, of Bolivar County, which he said tended to link the six-foot, four-inch, 240-pound negro with the fiendish slayings and furnished the basis for his "cannibalism" charge.

"Portions of human flesh," said Atty. Green, "salted and cured and with what appeared to be teeth marks, have been found at Coyner's home."

Announcement of the weird discovery was made following a grueling questioning of the negro in jail, in the mob-proof Hinds County jail where he was rushed after his arrest in Cleveland Saturday, and after Bolivar County authorities had filed formal request for an order permitting exhumation of the Turners' bodies to compare missing portions with the "flesh" assertedly found in Coyner's home.

Green hinted that "cannibalism" might be advanced by the State as a possible motive for the gruesome mutilation-slayings.

The bodies of Turner and his wife, an expectant mother, were found horribly mutilated in their small Bolivar County home the night of Dec. 9.

A gun, an ax and a knife were used by the slayer, described by officers as a fiend. The bodies were slashed, dismembered, and strewn about the bedroom. Several portions of the bodies, officers said, were missing.

One of the slain couple's children was struck over the head and apparently left for dead, while another, sleeping in a crib, was unharmed.

County Attorney Green said questioning of the negro proved futile. "We might as well have been talking to a stone post," he said, "but we've got the man we want."

Green said Coyner had been questioned concerning the unsolved mystery surrounding the discovery of the heads of four women in a trunk at Ferndale, Mich., eight years ago. He stated that the negro responded to all questions with a sullen silence.

Today's developments further intensified feeling here and in Bolivar County against the accused negro, and officers took additional precautions against possible mob violence.

Although the Hinds County jail is declared to be mob-proof, being situated atop the four-story courthouse and is accessible only by elevator and a narrow, well-guarded staircase, authorities increased the negro's guard.

No visitors were allowed in the jail today and no one was permitted to see Coyner without authorization of Bolivar County authorities.

The prisoner acknowledged serving a term in the Indiana penitentiary for grave-robbing. He was convicted in 1927 and paroled last June.

Coyner's arrest prompted Pontiac, Mich., authorities to re-open the case involving the finding of the women's heads. They informed Mississippi officers that the trunk in which the heads were found was traced to Coyner, who acknowledged ownership, but denied any knowledge of the crime.

Coyner was questioned about the Ferndale case while serving the sentence for grave-robbing in the Indiana penitentiary, and Michigan authorities quoted him as declaring that "I could tell you a lot of things you'd like to know, a lot of things about murders and murders, but I'll die first."

Sheriff John Roberts, of Hinds County, announced late today that Michigan officers were en route to Jackson to question the negro.

NEGROES FACING HANGMAN'S NOOSE

Mississippi Case Similar In Many Ways To The Scottsboro Plea

JACKSON, Miss. (U.S. INS) — Their case declared to be similar in a number of ways to the "Scottsboro case" in Alabama, three Negroes will be hanged in Mississippi Feb. 8 unless appeals are made to the U. S. Supreme Court or Gov. Conner grants clemency. The State Supreme Court has refused to grant the men new trials, although there was a dissenting vote by one member of the court.

Convicted of beating Raymond Stewart, Kemper County planter, to death with an ax, the boys appealed to the Supreme Court on the ground that confessions had been obtained by officers through third degrees and beatings. The Negroes are Ed Brown, Yank Ellington and Henry Shields.

Say Negroes Confessed
Kemper County officials said the Negroes had confessed to the sheriff individually and that robbery was the motive for the crime. The Negroes are alleged to have made confessions to other persons as well.

Stewart's body, according to evidence introduced at the trial, was taken from his house to a shed used for the storage of cotton seed. Kerosene was spattered here and there and the building ignited.

How Stewart managed to escape those flames alive, no one will ever know, but he did. It is believed he regained consciousness long enough to smother the fire and crawl out of the building, for he was found later by a Negro tenant. He was barely alive at the time of the discovery and was unable to give details. He died a short time later.

When the case came before the State Supreme Court, Justice Anderson contended the evidence, with the exception of the confessions, was inadequate for conviction. His dissenting opinion said:

"The evidence showed, without any substantial conflict, the appellants were driven to confess their guilt by most brutal and unmerciful whippings and beatings at the hands of persons who doubtless thought they were guilty."

"Viewing the trial as a whole, it appears to me that it is condemned by the principles laid down by the Supreme Court of the United States in the Scottsboro cases."

"Appellants were denied due process of a fair and impartial trial. Stewart was beaten with an ax. They were represented by counsel and other weapons. Evidence showed that his body was carried from the house to a shed filled with cotton seed, kerosene poured over it and lighted. Either Stewart was conscious enough to stamp out the fire or it died itself, as he was found by a negro tenant later, but died shortly afterwards."

Similar To Alabama Case
"The court so held in the Alabama cases, and further the right was denied whereon, being arraigned, the accused was not asked whether he had employed or was able to employ counsel, or wished to have counsel appointed, or had confessed to him separately, whether he had friends or relatives who might assist in that regard before other officials and a minister. The confessions revealed robbery and a deliberate trial."

Justice Anderson further contended in his opinion that the appellants were indicted five days after the crime. The second day after the indictments had been returned they were tried and found guilty on an alleged confession. He added:

"Four members of the bar had been appointed to defend them; one failed to act at the trial, one failed to join in the appeal. Those acting failed to object to the major parts of the evidence of confession."

"There appears to be very little regard in some quarters for that provision of the bill of rights guaranteeing persons charged with crime from being forced to give evidence against themselves."

HIGH COURT UPHOLDS DEATH FOR NEGROES

Appeal Denied Despite Plea of Mississippi Judge

LIKENED TO SCOTTSBORO

Contends Two Condemned to Die for Murder of Planter Was Denied Due Process of Law in Kemper

BY KENNETH TOLER

Commercial Appeal Staff Correspondent

JACKSON, Miss., Jan. 7.—Despite a dissenting opinion of Justice Anderson that the manner in which the lower court trial was conducted is condemned by the principles laid down in the Scottsboro cases, the supreme court majority today set aside the execution of three Kemper County negroes for the murder of Raymond Stewart planter.

The negroes are Ed Brown, Henry Shields and Yank Ellington, who appealed on grounds that their confessions were "whipped out of them" and beaten out of them. Evidence showed that his body was carried from the house to a shed filled with cotton seed, kerosene poured over it and lighted. Either Stewart was conscious enough to stamp out the fire or it died itself, as he was found by a negro tenant later, but died shortly afterwards.

Robbery Held As Motive

The sheriff of Kemper County testified that each of the negroes had confessed to him separately, and then repeated their statements before other officials and a minister. The confessions revealed robbery and a deliberate trial.

Judge Anderson held that without the confessions, the evidence was "wholly insufficient to sustain the conviction," and charged that the evidence showed, without any substantial conflict, that the appellants were driven to confess their guilt by most brutal and unmerciful whippings and beatings at the hands of persons who doubtless thought they were guilty.

Judge Anderson's dissenting opinion reads in part:

"Viewing this trial as a whole, it appears to me that it is condemned by the principles laid down by the Supreme Court of the United States in the Scottsboro cases. Appellants were denied due process—a fair and impartial trial. They were represented by counsel who had neither time nor opportunity to do their part. Due process requires representation by counsel, either employed by the accused or appointed by the court. The court so held in the Alabama cases, and further that the right was denied whereon being

arraigned, the accused was not asked whether he had or was able to employ counsel, or wish to have counsel appointed or whether he had friends or relatives who might assist in that regard if communicated with; that due process required a fair, orderly and deliberate trial.

Indicted On Fifth Day

"The case in a few words is this: The murder one day. Appellants indicted the fifth day thereafter. The second day after the indictment they were tried and convicted on confession of guilt whipped and beaten out of them. Four members of the bar had been appointed to defend them, one failed to act at the trial, and one failed to join in the appeal. Those acting failed to object to the major parts of the evidence of confession. Without confessions, the evidence was wholly insufficient to convict."

In some quarters, there appears to be very little regard for that provision of the bill of rights guaranteeing persons charged with crime from being forced to give evidence against themselves. The rack, the hose, the third degree or their equivalent are still in use."

Decisions by Division "A" follow:

BY JUDGE M'GOWEN

Alev Loeb, Inc., vs. Trustees Pearl River Junior College, circuit Pearl River; affirmed.

The American Bankers' Insurance Co. vs. Mrs. Velma White, circuit Pearl River; reversed and remanded.

First National Bank of Memphis vs. Sam Bianca, circuit Sunflower; reversed in part and affirmed as modified.

F. R. Sawyer et al vs. Port Gibson Bank, circuit Claiborne; affirmed.

BY JUDGE COOK

Lee R. Hart et al vs. John P. Moore, chancery Hinds; affirmed.

J. S. Love, superintendent of banks, vs. Charles E. Clark, circuit Jackson; reversed and remanded.

J. H. Robertson vs. G. & S. L. R. R. Co. et al., circuit Harrison; affirmed.

J. B. Gully, state tax collector, vs. C. O. Thomas et al., chancery Greene; affirmed.

Hamilton Bros. vs. Peter B. Narciese, circuit Harrison; affirmed.

BY CHIEF JUSTICE SMITH

Shell Petroleum Corporation vs. Eagle Lumber & Supply Co., circuit Leflore; reversed and judgment here for appellant.

B. E. Huff et al vs. J. S. Murray, circuit Forrest; affirmed.

A. L. Cooper vs. Mrs. Julia Davidson, circuit Holmes; reversed and judgment here for the appellant.

Manaway Barton et al vs. John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co., chancery Bolivar; suggestion of error, overruled.

Hill Hodges et al vs. C. G. Tranham et al, chancery Prentiss; suggestion of error, overruled.

William C. Jenkins vs. State, circuit Coahoma; suggestion of error, overruled.

BY THE COURT EN BANC

Ed Brown et al vs. State, circuit Kemper; affirmed and Friday, Feb. 8, 1935, set as date for execution of the sentence, Anderson, J., dissenting.

Cannibalism Motive Seen In Brutal Double Killing

Portions of Human Flesh, Salted and Cured, Found in Home of Confessed Grave Robber Charged with Murder of Man and Wife in Mississippi

JACKSON, Miss., Jan. 14. (P)—Cannibalism surged to the front today in the investigation of James H. Coyner, huge Negro grave robber, charged with the brutal double slaying in Cleveland, Miss., early in December of Aurelius B. Turner and his wife.

Startling charges were made by County Attorney E. H. Greep of Bolivar county, which he said tended to link the six-foot-four-inch 240-pound Negro with the grisly slayings and furnished the basis for his "cannibalism" charge.

"Portions of human flesh," said attorney Green "salted and cured, today and with what appeared to be teeth marks, have been found at Coyner's home."

Announcement of the weird discovery was made following a grueling questioning of the Negro in his cell in the mobproof Hinds county jail where he was rushed after his arrest in Cleveland Saturday. After Bolivar authorities had filed formal request for an order permitting exhumation of the Turners' bodies to compare missing portions with the "flesh" assertedly found in Coyner's home.

Bodies Horribly Mutilated
Green hinted that "cannibalism" might be advanced by the state as a possible motive for the gruesome mutilation slayings.

The bodies of Turner and his wife, an expectant mother, were found at a horribly mutilated in their small Bolivar county home the night of Dec. 9.

A gun, an axe and a knife were used by the slayer, described by officers as a fiend. The bodies were slashed, dismembered and strewn about the bedroom. Several portions of the bodies, officers said, were missing.

One of the slain couples' children was struck on the head and apparently left for dead, while another, sleeping in a crib, was unharmed.

3 NEGROES MUST DIE FOR FARMER'S DEATH

JACKSON, Miss., Jan. 7. (P)—Three negroes convicted of the brutal slaying of Raymond Stewart, Kemper county planter, last March, must hang February 8, the supreme court ruled today.

The condemned negroes are Ed Brown, Henry Shields and Yank Ellington. They had appeared on the grounds their alleged confessions were obtained by force, Stewart was found beaten to death.

Gruesome Story Of Slaying Told By Negro Ghoul

JACKSON, MISS., Jan. 17. (P)—Be-felt. "Did you bite this piece of flesh?" Rice asked him. "Oh, I took the skin to see how it felt."

"Did you kill four women at Ferndale, Mich.?" Robinson answered. "Yes," Robinson answered. "Did you kill four women at Ferndale, Mich.?" Robinson answered. "Yes," Robinson answered.

"She's innocent of any knowledge of Robinson was born in Cleveland, but left there about 18 years ago after a white man shot him for sending an ob-scene letter to his wife. He returned last July after his release from the Indiana penitentiary.

FUGITIVE FOUND DEAD
Negro's Body Discovered in Bayou Near Gulfport

GULFPORT, Miss., Jan. 21. (AP)—A negro fugitive, Tillis Saucier, who officers said escaped after his arrest in connection with the shooting of Tony Shiffalo at Kiln, recently was dead but the cause of death was undetermined.

The negro's body was found floating in a bayou yesterday, in the section where he had been trailed after his escape. Shiffalo has recovered.

Condemned Trio Seeks Reprieve

JACKSON, MISS., Feb. 2. (P)—Attorneys for three negroes scheduled to be hanged at DeKalb Feb. 8 for the slaying of Ray Stewart, Kemper county farmer, today asked Gov. Sennett Conner to extend for 90 days the time in which they may be admitted to prepare and file a motion for suggestion of error before the Mississippi Supreme Court, which has affirmed the death sentences.

The request was filed with the Governor by Earl Brewer, former governor and one of the attorneys for the negroes. Gov. Conner indicated he would grant an extension of time, but not for 90 days.

the hatchet on the woman until she was dead.

After striking down the woman, Robinson said he again turned on the prostrate Turner and shot him through the head.

The negro said he placed the bodies on a bed and drew from his pocket a knife thinned to razor sharpness with the intention of cutting up the bodies and burning them to conceal the crime. Changing his mind, however, he said he wrapped his hatchet in a piece of paper, took some portions of the woman's body and put them in a gunny sack and with his gruesome bundles walked down the railroad tracks and through a residential section of the town to his home.

"Why did you cut portions of the flesh from the woman's body?" Rice asked him.

"Oh, I took the skin to see how it felt."

"Did you bite this piece of flesh?" Rice asked him, referring to a piece of salted human flesh found at the negro's house. "Yes," Robinson answered.

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The Supreme Court previously had granted 15 days in which to prepare the motion and that time expires Feb. 7, the day before the scheduled hangings. The condemned negroes are Ed Brown, Yank Ellington and Henry Shields.

In an opinion dissenting from the Supreme Court's majority verdict, Associate Justice W. A. Anderson said the evidence from the trial court showed the confessions the negroes allegedly made were obtained by brutal "third degree" methods.

SLAYER USES IRON PIPE

Pat Hall Killed in Altercation With Myrtlewood Negro

MERIDIAN, Miss., Feb. 2. (P)—Pat Hall, 32, of Myrtlewood, was killed by blows from an iron pipe wielded by Frank Bridges, a negro, after an altercation near the Myrtlewood depot, Meridian friends were advised Saturday.

Hall died Friday night at 11 o'clock. Bridges has not been apprehended. Hall survived by his widow, brother and sister.

NEGROES GET STAY OF DEATH PENALTY

Conner Grants Reprieves in Kemper County Case

JACKSON, Miss., Feb. 3. (P)—Reprieves to Feb. 21 were granted by Governor Conner to three Kemper County negroes under sentence to be hanged Feb. 8 for the murder of a farmer.

Executive intervention was in order to give the state supreme court sufficient time to pass on a suggestion of error to be filed by Attorneys Brewer, Hewitt and Clark.

Facing execution for the crime are Ed Brown, Yank Ellington and Henry Shields. They were convicted at the March, 1934, term of circuit court at DeKalb.

The recent supreme court affirmation of the death sentences was not concurred in by Justice Anderson, who said that the negroes had been forced to confess to the murder through use of "the rope and strap." Justice Anderson said that the negroes were deprived of their constitutional rights, and that the case was similar to the Scottsboro case.

Should the state court refuse to reverse its position, the case will be appealed to the United States Supreme Court.

Laurel, Miss. Call February 6, 1935
THE WRONG PHILOSOPHY

The negro cannibal, Coyner, is quoted as saying: "I cannot help what I am. I was born that way." Coyner has studied the philosophy of Marcus Aurelius, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche. If he has studied the life of the gentle Jesus, it is not recorded. If he had done so, perhaps he might have been persuaded away from the hopeless statement he made to reporters when he said: "I cannot help what I am. I was born that way."

The utterance of Coyner, cannibal-slayer, is reason enough for Christianity, which does not condemn a man to the weaknesses of his ancestry, but bids him rise, each generation using the preceding one for a stepping stone to higher things.

Laurel, Miss. Call February 6, 1935

WELL CONDUCTED

The trial of this criminal, Coyner, requiring six hundred members of the national guard to guarantee him a fair and legal chance to prove his innocence, cost the state a nice sum of money. Yet, if a lynching had occurred, on account of the negligence of our officials, it would have cost us, as a people, much more than the safe trial did.

There was a time when it made a governor extremely unpopular to call out the militia to guard a negro criminal, when the fingers of thousands were itching to get at his throat. But that time is past. Everybody seems to realize that nothing is gained by mob violence, even if the courts are tardy and dilatory and sometimes fall far short of carrying out our personal preconceived ideas of justice.

The officials of this state are to be congratulated on the manner in which this trial was conducted, and the courts are to be congratulated on the swiftness with which Covner got the sentence that he deserved.

Defense Battles To Save Lives Of Three Negroes

JACKSON, MISS., March 23. (P)—Another step in an intense legal battle to save three Kemper County negroes, Yank Ellington, Ed Brown and Henry Shields, from the gallows, was taken here today when attorneys for the trio sought to have the conviction and sentence dismissed on the grounds that the trial in Kemper County was not legally held, so far as the official record reveals.

The Supreme Court took under advisement a motion filed by Asst. Atty. Gen. W. D. Conn for a writ of certiorari to the trial court to bring up a certified copy of the order extending the court term. The negroes were convicted of murdering a white planter.

Killings-1935

Missouri.

Officer Slays Negro
CARTHAGE, Mo., April 22.—Jess Wheeler, negro, was slain here yesterday by Officer Brey about seven years. They had a Bohanan in a running gun battle home at 908 Lafayette street on the after the negro had been covered Kansas side. For several weeks, Officer Wm Medlin and escaped Bingham had been staying at his from the city jail where he was being held for questioning concerning a robbery late Saturday night.

MOTHER'S DAY VISIT ENDS IN SHOOTING

**Howard Bingham Killed by
Wife When he Returns
From Fort Scott**

A few hours after he had kissed his mother goodbye in Fort Scott where he had spent Mother's Day, Howard Bingham, 53 years old, was shot and killed Sunday night by his estranged wife in his janitor quarters of the apartment house at 3715 Summit street. Mrs. Isabelle Bingham, 42 years old, arrested at the scene, confessed to police.

Bingham went to Fort Scott on Saturday evening. He returned home Sunday night and shortly after his arrival, his wife came to his apartment. The shooting occurred about 9:30 p. m.

When police officers, summoned by Mrs. J. E. Moore, manager of the apartments, arrived at the basement apartment, they found Bingham clad in pajamas, lying on the floor with his head toward the doorway. His open pajama shirt revealed two bullet holes in his chest.

Woman Holding Revolver

Mrs. Bingham was sitting on the bed holding a .38 caliber revolver. When an officer asked her whether she had shot her husband she replied "Yes" and handed the gun to Officer Fitzpatrick of station No. 4. When the officer asked her why she had done it she refused to answer, saying that she would talk at the proper time.

At police headquarters Monday Mrs. Bingham said that she shot her husband during a quarrel in which she accused him of taking an-

other woman with him to Fort Scott.

The Bingham had been married about seven years. They had a Bohanan in a running gun battle home at 908 Lafayette street on the after the negro had been covered Kansas side. For several weeks, Officer Wm Medlin and escaped Bingham had been staying at his from the city jail where he was being held for questioning concerning a robbery late Saturday night.

Mrs. Bingham told police that for some time she had been trying to get her husband to return home with her but that he had refused to do so. On Saturday when Bingham took her some groceries on the Kansas side, Mrs. Bingham said that he told her he was not going to take her to Fort Scott. She had reason to believe, she said, that he took another woman with him.

When she accused him Sunday night when he returned an argument ensued. She claimed that Bingham reached for a pistol before she fired the fatal shots from a gun she said she obtained from underneath some clothing in Bingham's room.

Heard No Argument

The shooting attracted the manager who summoned police and an ambulance. When the ambulance arrived, Bingham was dead. In the revolver held by his wife, there were three loaded shells and three empty ones. The gun had been fired three times, two taking effect.

Although Mrs. Bingham said an argument occurred before the shooting, Mrs. Moore, the manager, and other occupants of the apartment said that they heard no unusual noise before the sound of the shots. One tenant who lives directly above the janitor's apartment said that the only thing he heard prior to the shooting was Bingham's voice saying, "My God, don't do that."

Bingham was well known and well liked in the neighborhood of the Summit street apartment. He had worked at his present place of employment since November, but had worked in the neighborhood for seven years. He was well known and well liked in the community Mrs. Moore said.

Mrs. Bingham was taken into custody by Detectives Sprofera and Eldridge. She was arraigned and pleaded not guilty to a charge of murder in the first degree Tuesday morning before Justice J. J. Daugherty and is being held without bond pending her preliminary hearing.

Bingham's body was sent to the Metropolitan funeral home by Deputy Coroner L. P. Richardson.

Killings-1935

New Jersey.

RACIAL HATRED IS STUDIED IN 2 CCC DEATHS

Youths Are Battered to Death in Car on Jersey Highway

Mob violence, fanned to a flame by racial resentment over the establishment of Negro Civilian Conservation Corps units in various parts of New Jersey, was being investigated by Atlantic City authorities in the brutal murder of two CCC youths Sunday morning.

The mutilated bodies of the two youths, Charles Green, 20, Leeds avenue, and Benjamin Hobson, 19, Mediterranean avenue, Atlantic City, were found early Sunday morning on the Trenton Turnpike, two miles north of Hammonton, N. J. The victims, on their way home to spend a three-day furlough, had been horribly beaten and their bodies hurled from a speeding car.

The slain youths, both members of a CCC company at Camp Dix, had been beaten to death, according to members of the State Police, who are investigating, together with detectives from the Atlantic City Prosecutor's office. Both sustained fractured skulls, and Hobson had a head wound that was apparently caused by a knife, although County Physician I. E. Leonard, who performed the autopsies, said it might have been caused by the body being thrown from a moving car.

The two bodies were so close together that it was believed both had been thrown from a car together. The suggestion that they had been the victims of a hit-run driver was scouted by the police, who declared their clothes were in too good condition for that. Their clothing was clean and there was money in their pockets, which led to the belief that they might have been victims of race hatred, not robbery.

The bodies were discovered, lying face downward at the edge of the road, by a party of six white Trentonians, on their way to the shore at 4:30 a.m. Sunday, for a fishing party. Some of the six continued on into Hammonton to notify the state police at their barracks, and others remained with the bodies until the police arrived.

Investigating officers reported that the two were last seen Saturday night in a tavern at Indian Mills. They left after declaring they intended to hitch-hike to Atlantic City, as they were on a three-day furlough from the CCC camp, and wanted to visit their homes. They had been transferred to Camp Dix five months ago from a New York camp.

Funeral arrangements, in charge of an Atlantic City undertaker, were to be completed as soon as the county physician released the bodies for burial. Meanwhile, the police are continuing the investigation at Camp Dix.

Further weight was lent to the theory of mob violence by a statement issued by Dr. A. A. Alleyne, prominent Atlantic City physician after he examined the bodies at the Charles A. Donoway funeral parlors. The statement read:

"The two young colored boys found were killed, presumably by a mob. Their heads show evidence of great violence by a blunt instrument. One had his right arm broken, such force being used as to fracture the humerus so that the bone is protruding through the flesh. One had the back of his skull fractured to such an extent that it is easily visible."

The mob theory is being investigated closely on the orders of Public Prosecutor James A. Lightfoot.

NEGRO FARM LABORER MURDERED IN PROTEST OVER DISCRIMINATION

Attacked by White Pool Room Owner in Jersey Injured Man Was Refused Medical Aid, Thrust Into Jail Cell—Murderer Still Free

GLASSBORO, N. J., Sept. 3.—Jacob Tyler, a Negro farm laborer of Eighty Acres, a Negro settlement near here, was murdered by the white proprietor of a Glassboro pool room for protesting discrimination.

Tyler, with his brother-in-law, walked into the pool room on High Street last Friday and started to play a game of pool. The white pool room proprietor and proprietor ordered them out in abusive terms, the tenor of which was that Negroes, like dogs, were not permitted in his place of business. When Tyler protested, the proprietor attacked him with a sawed-off pool cue, fracturing his skull. Woodbury County Jail, without Police, called by indignant spectators, refused to arrest the murderous proprietor and instead placed the injured Negro under arrest. Tyler was taken to the West Jersey Hospital, where he was refused treatment and was not even examined. He was then lodged in the jail, without medical attention of any kind, al-

though his condition was clearly critical. He died Saturday.

South Jersey newspapers have not published a single word about this cold-blooded murder of a Negro worker. They are too busy helping Bridgeport, N. J., police in a campaign of lynch incitement against Romain Johnson, Negro farmhand, arrested on "suspicion" in connection with the recent murder of a white farm owner.

The International Labor Defense is initiating a protest campaign against the murder of Tyler and the lynch incitement in the local press. It is calling on South Jersey working class organizations to demand prosecution and punishment of the white murderer of Tyler and investigation of Jim Crow practices in South Jersey.

LINCOLN, NEB.

EVENING STATE JOURNAL

OCT 2 1935

A New Jersey Negro who confessed to beating a woman to death has been legally sentenced to die. There was no lynching, no disregard of law on the part of the people, and the regular processes were permitted to be carried out. That is a more comforting story than it would have been had the anger of the people been permitted to rule. In this case the law says, after an orderly trial, that the Negro, who committed this crime while intoxicated, has forfeited all right to live. Society is thus protected from the criminal as well as from itself.

Killings-1935

New York.

Bronx, N.Y. Home News

JUN 14 1935

Absence of Colored Jurors Wins New Trial

The conviction of James A. W. Jones, Newark colored man, for the murder of a night watchman has been reversed by the Court of Errors and Appeals in Trenton, N. J., and a new trial ordered. The court ruled that the trial court had refused to investigate charges that colored persons were deliberately avoided in choosing the jury.

Copy of Telegram Also

Sent to Mayor's Inquiry Group

A demand for an investigation of the police murder of Edward Laurie, a 32-year-old Harlem Negro worker, who was killed early Saturday morning by Patrolman Abraham Zabutinski, was wired to District Attorney William C. Dodge yesterday by the Daily Worker. A copy of the telegram to Dodge was sent to Arthur Garfield Hays, member of the Mayor's Committee investigating the economic and social conditions in Harlem which led to last Tuesday's outbreak against starvation and jim-crow discrimination in relief.

The Daily Worker's telegram to District Attorney Dodge states:

"Murder of Negro worker, Edward Laurie, Saturday morning by police officer Abraham Zabutinski sustains charges of Daily Worker of repeated violence against Negro people in Harlem. Insist you immediately investigate this killing by police and order an autopsy. We demand right to be present with qualified medical expert. This terror which has become commonplace occurrence in Harlem together with terrible starvation and discrimination in Harlem are at the bottom of recent events which District Attorney Dodge is trying to cover up by creating anti-Red hysteria." (Signed) Editor, Daily Worker."

Laurie, who lived at 113 West 143rd Street, was savagely beaten up by Patrolman Zabutinski, who arrested him in the Eagle restaurant, at 511 Lenox Avenue, on a charge of "disorderly conduct." Zabutinski, one of the army of police prowling through every street and cranny of Harlem since last Tuesday's outbreak, was speedily exonerated by the police authorities and is still on active duty in Harlem.

Died In Hospital

Zabutinski's story, given by the police to the press, is that Laurie

swung at him as he took him out of the restaurant. He claimed he only struck Laurie once, but that the blow knocked him down, so that his head struck the pavement as he fell, with such force as to cause a fracture of the skull. The Negro worker died a few hours later in the Harlem Hospital.

Laurie worked in a barber shop at 517 Lenox Avenue, two doors from the restaurant. Eyewitnesses state he had had a couple of glasses of beer and was engaged in a friendly argument with the Negro proprietor of the restaurant, when Patrolman Zabutinski entered the place.

Three Known Dead

With three known dead from last Tuesday's events in Harlem, Edward C. Rybicki, supervising Labor Mediator of the State Department of Labor, yesterday admitted that appalling economic and social conditions in Harlem caused the outbreak. Rybicki, who, as former director of the city free employment agency established a record for callous brutality against the unemployed, yesterday contributed to the terroristic drive against the people of Harlem with a proposal of deportation of Southern-born Negroes back to the South with its system of chain gang relief for the unemployed. He put forward his proposal "as an effective means of averting a recurrence of the riot in the district last week."

His proposal would be carried out under the hypocritical pretext that the Negroes who fled the South and came to Harlem in search of liberty and economic security are "anxious" to return to the prison atmosphere of the lynch-ridden South and are deterred "only because they were unable to earn enough money for their fare home."

Thousands of Harlem workers were destitute and had little chance of obtaining employment, Rybicki said, adding:

"The conditions of the Negro in Harlem, the overcrowded homes with two or three families occupying apartments originally planned

for one, the discrimination of Harlem employers against the employment of Negro workers, undernourishment, literally created a powder keg to be set off by the slightest impact."

Mayor Endorses Terror

Mayor LaGuardia on Saturday indirectly endorsed the man-hunt against Communist and militant workers in Harlem organized by District Attorney William C. Dodge.

Asked whether he did not believe that the work of Dodge diverged fundamentally from the line he had set down for his own committee, the Mayor answered:

"No, I think these are two separate and distinct functions."

"But don't you think that District Attorney Dodge's drive against Communists will tend to make the public forget about the vice probe?" the Mayor was asked.

SLAYER OF GIRL, 9, HEAVILY GUARDED

Youth Twice Attempts To

Kill Self Following

Confession.

GREENVILLE, N. Y., June 30.

(P)—A heavy guard was maintained today at the hospital bed of young Alfred E. Voickmann, violin-playing butcher's boy, to forestall any new attempt at suicide following upon his reputed confession to the attack-slaying of 9-year-old Helen Glenn.

However, members of New York state's "Scotland Yard," who related the confession last night, said Voickmann apparently had regained his composure. The hospital guard, they added, was merely a precautionary measure.

The 19-year-old villager apparently was little the worse for the two doses of diluted poison he swallowed when, detectives said, the full repulsiveness of his crime startled him into panic.

The excitement that pervaded this Catskill resort of 300 persons had completely died down today, and there were none of the muttered threats of yesterday and last night.

Sheriff H. Clay Ferris announced a warrant charging first-degree murder would be issued shortly and the boy would be arraigned either at Greenville or at Catskill as soon as his condition warrants.

Race Hatred

HEARST'S New York Journal yesterday started whipping up a lynch-hysteria against Negroes. An eight-column headline in type an inch high screamed: "Ape Man Admits Park Killing."

A Negro, George Wilson, has been arrested and is reported to have "confessed" the killing of a woman in St. Nicholas Park. Anyone familiar with police methods, especially when dealing with Negroes, knows how these "confessions" are obtained. The Negro was also "identified" as the slayer of another woman on July 15, but a few hours later the man who "identified" him said he wasn't sure. The "confession"—most likely extracted with blackjacks and brass knuckles—is probably equally reliable.

Hearst is using the same methods here as he used in Detroit last summer when his newspaper, the Detroit Times, led the attempt to frame-up the Negro worker, James Victory, on the basis of a similar "ape man" hysteria. They are the methods of fascists the world over. The very use of the term "ape man" stinks of the slave-market.

The International Labor Defense should investigate this case and see that the arrested Negro gets his rights despite Hearst.

Negro Suspect Held In New York Park Murder

NEW YORK, July 16.—(AP)—A negro suspect was arrested by Brooklyn police at the Borden Street subway station today in the "nickel slaying" of 23-year-old Leonora Rivera.

A negro accosted the girl and her escort, Albert Martinez, 35, in Morningside Park early yesterday morning. Martinez refused his request for a nickel. The negro, Martinez said, drew a knife and slashed him and then stabbed Miss Rivera to death.

The suspect was spotted by a subway employe at a Harlem station. A squad of 40 policemen hauled him out of the car in Brooklyn after a five-minute fight that attracted a crowd of 1,000.

He denied the attack. Manhattan homicide squad detectives took him to the Harlem Hospital late tonight for Martinez to view in an attempt to identify him.

NEGRO KILLS GIRL

Male Companion Beaten in N. Y. Park Holdup.

NEW YORK, July 15.—(AP)—A negro holdup man stabbed a young white woman to death in Morningside Park early today and beat and robbed her companion, Albert Martinez, 25.

The woman was not immediately identified. Martinez said he knew her only as Donna.

He said he and the girl were sitting on a bench when the negro approached and demanded money. Martinez started to fight. The negro slashed him on the arms, knocking him down and rifled his pockets.

The girl ran away screaming. The negro overtook her, Martinez said, and stabbed her under the heart. She was dead before a physician arrived.

Lover Held in Death Of White Prostitute

Woman Had Once Been Picked Up as Witness in Another Murder Case in Harlem

Anna Brooks, a homeless white prostitute, who was picked up by police last year in connection with another Harlem slaying, was stabbed fatally Thursday night in St. Nicholas Park. Police arrested the woman's lover, Oscar Wilson, no home, who confessed that he slew her because of jealousy. She was found lying on her back on a rock thirty feet above street level, between 133d and 134th streets, when Patrolman James Carter Sand of the West 135th street station was led to the scene by six eye-witnesses. She had been stabbed twice, in the right hand and in the base of her neck. She died before aid could reach her.

The 34-year-old Wilson was arrested at the scene of the crime by Patrolman Murphy of the West 135th street station. He had made no attempt to escape. Under questioning by Detectives Leef and Flinter he revealed that he became enraged at his victim because she had permitted a number of park habitues to "play with her." Police said the woman was without underwear.

The victim, a woman about 39 years old, with bobbed auburn hair, was neatly attired in a blue polka dot dress. She was arrested a year ago as a material witness in a slaying in 131st street. She said on that occasion that she had no home. Wilson, according to police, has a criminal record.

According to witnesses whose names the police are withholding,

A misleading account of the slaying was given by the Daily News in its late Friday morning edition. According to the tabloid, the "Ape Man" was "seized as he fled from crime." The News has given that label to a number of Negroes arrested over the past eighteen months.

The inaccurate inflammatory story goes on to say that "she had apparently been picked up and dashed head first against a large rock. Her skull was crushed and her neck broken." According to the findings of an ambulance surgeon who examined the woman, none of these things happened.

Killings - 1935

Police Killer of Laurie Also Murderer of Boy

Daily Worker 3-28-35
**Zabutinsky Is Cop Who Shot Young Santos
Fernandez in Cold Blood September 5—
Officials Whitewash Both Acts**

By Cyril Briggs

Patrolman Abraham Zabutinski, who murdered the Negro worker, Edward Laurie, early last Saturday morning at 136th Street and Lenox Avenue, is the same police killer who, on Sept. 5, last, committed the cold-blooded murder of Santos Fernandez, a Porto Rican school child, in the backyard of a chain store at 52 Lenox Avenue, Lower Harlem.

Zabutinski was at that time assigned to the West 123rd Street police station. His murder of little Santos Fernandez evoked such indignation among the Latin-American workers of Harlem that he was transferred from the station, after Saturday morning, 10 o'clock, in the police authorities had white-washed the shocking crime.

A tough guy and a ruthless killer, Patrolman Zabutinski was transferred to the West 135th Street station, in the heart of Negro Harlem, to join the other police thugs of Mayor LaGuardia in terrorizing the Negro people of Harlem.

Shot in Cold Blood

Little Santos Fernandez was shot down in cold blood by Patrolman Zabutinski, when the latter found him and another boy playing in the backyard of the chain store at 52 Lenox Avenue. Zabutinski accused the two children of trying to break into the store, and before the frightened boys could explain their presence in the yard, Zabutinski shot down Santos and turned his smoking gun on the other kid. The latter screams "Please don't kill me," attracted the attention of workers in nearby tenement buildings. Their shouts and protests saved the intended second child-victim of LaGuardia's police thugs.

The body of the killer Zabutinski's latest victim, the Negro worker, Laurie, was laid out today in the funeral parlor of Eric C. Phillips, at 106 West 136th Street. Friends of the murdered worker have been collecting funds for his funeral, which will take place today at noon from Phillips' Funeral Parlor. Laurie leaves an aged mother, who is living in Key West, Florida, and a wife and four children from whom he had been separated for some time.

Witnesses to be at Hearing

The Mayor's Committee to Investigate Social and Economic Conditions in Harlem, which has already admitted that the March 19 outbreak was caused by the widespread hunger and misery in Harlem workers of Harlem that he was holding an open hearing Saturday morning, 10 o'clock, in the 7th District Municipal Court, 447 West 151st Street. Unemployed Harlem workers who have been slugged and beaten up by police at the home relief bureaus, the eye-witnesses of the police shootings on March 19, of the police murder of Laurie, will attend this hearing and demand to be heard.

Wednesday night's protest meeting at Madison Square Garden is called jointly by the American League Against War and Fascism and the American Civil Liberties Union. The protest action has received the endorsement of many organizations, including the Communist Party, the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, the International Labor Defense, and a number of trade unions.

Investigation Demand Backed

The demand raised last Sunday by the Daily Worker, in a telegram to District Attorney Dodge, for an investigation of the police murder of Laurie and for the arrest of Patrolman Zabutinski, has also received the support of numerous organizations in Harlem and throughout the city. Protest resolutions have been sent to Mayor LaGuardia, District Attorney Dodge and the Mayor's Committee to Investigate Social and Economic Conditions in Harlem. In a telegram to District Attorney Dodge, the New York District International Labor Defense demanded the immediate arrest and prosecution of Zabutinski, and of the policemen who fired on Harlem workers on March 19. The organization demanded an investigation

of the police department, to be conducted by agencies outside of the police.

The Unemployed Teachers Association wired Mayor LaGuardia a demand for a thorough investigation of school conditions in Harlem, pointing out that overcrowded schools, lack of playgrounds, etc., were contributory factors in the indignant outburst of the Negro people of Harlem on March 19. The Association, through Isadore Begun, chairman of its Executive Board, offered the testimony of Harlem teachers if assured by the Mayor of protection against reprisals. The telegram concluded: "You promised to clean up the Board of Education. Do so now. We offer full co-operation."

For Workers' Bill

"Genuine unemployment and social insurance is the burning need of the Negro people," the N. Y. Joint Action Committee for Social Insurance, 80 East 11th Street, declared in a statement issued yesterday on the Harlem situation.

"Every newspaper, without exception," the statement says, "admits that the basic reasons leading to the incident of March 19 were the mass unemployment, the discrimination, and the lack of adequate relief in Harlem." The Committee called upon Congressman Vito Marcantonio of the 20th Congressional District, Harlem, to exert every effort to assure passage of Workers Bill, H. R. 2827, for genuine unemployment and social insurance without discrimination because of race, religion or political beliefs.

PASSAIC, N. J., March 27.—Passaic Negro and white workers will protest the growing political reaction in New York City, and the LaGuardia-Dodge attacks upon the Negro people of Harlem and the Communist Party in a mass meeting here tomorrow night, March 28, at the Bethel A. M. E. Church, 145 Myrtle Avenue.

The meeting, called jointly by the League of Struggle for Negro Rights and the Communist Party, will be addressed by Elwood Dean, young Negro worker of Newark, and Aleck Dorson, Passaic section organizer of the Communist Party. Rev. Keller, pastor of Bethel Church will act as chairman.

Demand Slayer's Arrest

PATROLMAN ABRAHAM ZABUTINSKI, murderer of the Negro worker, Edward Laurie, had cold-bloodedly murdered a Porto Rican school child in Lower Harlem last September 5. Only the outcry of workers saved the life of a second child, threatened at the same time by this bloody buffian. *Daily Worker*

The fact that this ruthless police-killer of workers' children was assigned to duty in Negro Harlem, after protests forced his removal from the Latin-American community, shouts aloud of the brutal attitude of Mayor LaGuardia's police department toward the Negro people of Harlem.

Mass misery, jim-crow discrimination in relief and on public works, denial of proper hospital facilities, discrimination in appropriations for municipal housing, playgrounds and social services, supplemented by the fiercest police terror—this is the program of the LaGuardia-bankers administration against the suffering Negro people of Harlem. *New York*

These are the hideous conditions that the Dodge-LaGuardia attacks on the Communist Party and the whole labor movement are aimed to cover up. This drive to suppress the rights of the working class and the Negro people must be met with the sternest resistance from labor and all friends of labor. All out to Madison Square Garden next Wednesday evening, April 3. Rush protest resolutions and telegrams to Mayor LaGuardia and District Attorney William C. Dodge. Demand the arrest and prosecution of Patrolman Zabutinski! Demand a real investigation into the murder of Edward Laurie, of the police terror in Harlem, of jim-crow discrimination against the Negro people in the administration of relief by the city.

FORD PRESSES C.P. DEMAND FOR INQUIRY

Daily Worker
**LaGuardia's Committee
Bars Press, Public
From Session**
3-26-35

A demand for an investigation of the brutal police murder of the Negro worker, Edward Laurie, in Harlem last Saturday morning, was made yesterday by James W. Ford, Harlem Section Organizer of the Communist Party, in the following letter to the Mayor's Committee for the Investigation of Conditions in Harlem as follows:

New York
March 25, 1935
"Chairman,
Mayor's Committee for the
Investigation of Conditions
in Harlem,

447 West 151st Street,
New York City.

"Gentlemen:

"Early Saturday morning Edward Laurie, a Negro worker, was murdered by policeman Abram Zabutinski at 511 Lenox Avenue. This unprovoked brutal murder confirms my statement made less than 24 hours after Tuesday's outbreak that repeated violence against the Negro people on the part of officers of the police department was one of the factors at the bottom of the recent events in Harlem.

"I insist that your committee make as its first official act an investigation of this killing by policeman Zabutinski, that his immediate arrest be ordered, and that an autopsy be performed upon the body of Edward Laurie in the presence of qualified medical experts.

"Our organization stands ready to appear before your committee at any time to supply additional information about starvation, discrimination, and police brutality in Harlem, all of which are basic causes of the outbreak on March 19th.

"I am making this an open letter to the press.

"Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) JAMES W. FORD,
Secretary, Harlem Section of
the Communist Party.

By Cyril Briggs

Edward Laurie, Harlem Negro worker murdered early last Saturday morning by a white policeman, was killed for "talking back" to one of Mayor LaGuardia's uniformed thugs. The killer, Patrolman Abraham Zabutinski was immediately exonerated by his police superiors.

Eye-witnesses to the fatal occurrence at Lenox Avenue and 136th Street agree that Laurie had not swung at the policeman, as the latter claims. Laurie was savagely punched on the chin because he "talked back," because he called the officer "one of them wise coppers," when Patrolman Zabutinski placed him under arrest on a charge of disorderly conduct.

Brutal Lesson

Not to "talk back" to the white bosses and their police thugs—this is one of the brutal lessons that the LaGuardia administration is intent on teaching the Negro people of Harlem. Through the bestial reign of terror it has launched against the Negro masses following their army outbreak last Tuesday night against their appalling misery, hunger conditions, and jim-crow discrimination in relief and jobs.

This vicious act of terrorizing the Negro population of Harlem is behind the savage sentences meted out with lightning rapidity by the courts against scores of workers arrested last Tuesday night and subsequently.

Terrorization of the people of Harlem, whitewashing of police brutality, covering up of the horrible conditions of hunger and misery in congested Harlem—these are the aims behind the "Red-baiting" by District Attorney William C. Dodge in his attacks on the Communist Party and other militant labor organizations in Harlem.

Terror Obvious

Symptomatic of the terror engendered in Harlem by the LaGuardia administration is the evident reluctance with which eye-witnesses of Saturday's police murder related the event to the writer. And not one was willing to have his name used in connection with his statements. A discussion of the murder by a group of four Negro workers Sunday night on the corner of Lenox Avenue and 135th Street, latest police murder in Harlem. I halted immediately I joined the group. Only my Daily Worker card and the accident that one of the group recognized me, caused them to loosen up and answer my questions. Two of the group were eye-witnesses to the affair.

"Did either of you see Laurie swing at the cop?" I asked.

"That's just a damn lie," one of the two eye-witnesses replied. "That boy was drunk, but he did not swing

at the cop. At least not after he was brought out of that lunchroom," Laurie was murdered in typical Southern lynch lord fashion for "talking back" to a white policeman. "The cop suddenly punched him on the button, and Laurie went limp all at once. His head struck the pavement as he fell."

"Did any of you see what happened in the restaurant," I asked.

"No, we were crossing 136th Street together when we see the cop dragging Laurie out. That boy didn't make any pass against that cop. That's just the cop's excuse after he found he had killed him."

Other persons interviewed by the writer were more reticent. The white proprietor of a drug store at 213 Lenox Avenue brusquely replied he "knew nothing whatever about the matter." The same reply, was given, less brusquely, by the white proprietor of the Harlem Grill at 515 Lenox Avenue.

Called Police

At the Eagle Lunchroom, the manager said he was not present at the time Laurie was arrested and killed by the policeman. The night man told him, however, that Laurie was drunk at the time and had been "acting loudly." "He had paid his bill, but he kept shouting and carrying on, so the night man finally decided he had better call an officer. He had no idea things would turn out this way."

None of the workers in the lunchroom saw Laurie swing at the officer. The manager said he understood Laurie had "talked back." "What do you mean 'talked back'?" I asked.

"He called the officer 'one of them wise coppers.'"

The night man was absent Sunday evening. No one seemed to know his home address. At the barber shop, at 517 Lenox Avenue, where Laurie worked, the manager described Laurie as "a quiet, respectable fellow." He worked part time.

Killed for "talking back" to a white officer! That was the fate meted out by one of LaGuardia's police thugs to the Negro worker, Edward Laurie, last Saturday morning.

It is clear that no Negro worker will be safe in Harlem if this wanton police murder is permitted to go unchallenged. Every worker, Negro and white, should support the demand raised by the Daily Worker in its telegram Sunday to District Attorney Dodge for an open investigation of this latest police murder in Harlem. Demand an autopsy on the body of the murdered Negro worker! Demand the arrest and prosecution of the Patrolman Zabutinski! Demand a halt to the police terror in Harlem! Demand the dropping of the framed-up charges and the release of the Negro and white workers arrested last Tuesday night and in the raids on workers' organizations and homes since then.

Killed in Lynch Fashion

Laurie was murdered in typical Southern lynch lord fashion for "talking back" to a white policeman.

"Don't dare protest brutality by police and white storekeepers against Negro children!" This is the additional fascist edict of the LaGuardia administration, voiced by Mayor LaGuardia in Harlem Court last Saturday in imposing sentence of three days in the workhouse or \$10 fine on Margaret Mitchell, the 18-year old Negro girl who spread the alarm last Tuesday night that a Negro child was being beaten in the S. H. Kress store on West 125th Street.

The police and the press now claim that the boy was not beaten. Lino Rivero, produced by the police as the boy in question, stated in an interview published in the N. Y. Journal of March 20, that one of the floorwalkers had said, "Let's take him down the cellar and beat hell out of him."

Rivero, under evident intimidation by the police, denied he was actually beaten. Witnesses of the affair, including Anna Knauer, a white worker of 421 West 56th Street, have told the Daily Worker that they saw floorwalkers and policemen slapping the boy, while he was huddled up with fright in a back room of the Kress store. Mrs. Knauer was one of the white and Negro women who protested the outrage. She was herself threatened by a policeman, and told "You are not colored, so why the hell are you fighting for them?"

Quite clearly there was ample cause for concern over the treatment of the boy. Certainly, it is public knowledge that Negro children have been brutally beaten before by white storekeepers and policemen. But the LaGuardia administration, through its courts, ordains prison sentences and fines for workers who protest such brutality, and the wanton murder of Negro workers who "talk back" to LaGuardia's police thugs.

LaGuardia, District Attorney Dodge, the courts and the police must not be permitted to get away with these vicious attacks upon the workers of New York and the Negro people. Flood City Hall with protests! Demand the release of the Harlem defendants! Demand an open investigation into police murders and brutality in Harlem, into jim-crow discrimination in relief!

The press and the public were barred yesterday afternoon from the opening session of the committee appointed by Mayor LaGuardia to investigate the economic and social conditions in Harlem which led to last Tuesday's outbreak in the community.

The Mayor's Committee opened its meeting at 4 o'clock in the District Court at 447 West 151st Street. At that same hour, Mayor LaGuardia

was reported to be addressing a conference of Negro ministers at the Salem Baptist Church, 129th Street and Seventh Avenue.

District Attorney William C. Dodge yesterday moved to obtain felony indictments for criminal anarchy against militant Negro and white workers arrested during last Tuesday's outbreak in Harlem against mass misery, jim-crow relief and pestilential housing conditions.

Heretofore indictments had been sought against the Harlem defendants on charges of "inciting to riot," usually a misdemeanor, and for burglary in the third degree, on allegations of looting in connection with last Tuesday's events.

Addressing the Colored Interdenominational Ministers Conference of Greater New York and vicinity Mayor LaGuardia yesterday afternoon admitted the basic economic causes of Tuesday's outbreak in Harlem, but continued to yell for the blood of Communist and other militant workers.

He spoke vaguely of municipal housing for Harlem, but argued that his hands were tied because of the reluctance of the Federal Government to make loans for low-rent housing. He did not mention, however, that all housing projects so far undertaken by the city, either directly or indirectly through loans to contractors, had completely ignored the crying needs of the people of congested Harlem for better housing facilities.

2 Grand Juries Won't Indict Cop who Killed Boy

Neither Calls Officer to
Testify; He Still Walks
Beat. 6-15-35

WITNESSES DENY
LOOTING CLAIMS

Say They Saw Lad Shot
without Warning.

NEW YORK—For the second time since the Harlem rioting a grand jury refused on Monday to indict Patrolman John F. McIn-

nelly, white, who on March 20, fatally shot Lloyd Hobbs, 17, in the back, after the youth is supposed to have broken into the show window of an auto accessories shop at 2510 Seventh Avenue.

According to testimony before the Mayor's Commission on conditions in Harlem, the officer did not order the youth to halt. The window, witnesses said, was broken several hours before the officer came along, and there was no evidence linking Hobbs with the crime charged.

The police claim, however, that Hobbs was seen inside the show window, and that an auto horn and a wrench was found on him after he was shot.

Loot Planted Is Hint

Testifying before the grand jury, James H. Tartar, an investigator of the commission, asserted that before April 1, neither the policeman, the detective appointed to investigate the shooting, or the district attorney's office gave evidence or indications that loot was found. Several witnesses found by Mr. Tartar also testified that the boy had no loot.

The general opinion expressed is that the auto horn and wrench were planted in order to build up a case favorable to the police. The failure of the grand jury in each case to have McInerney testify, has led to the charge that a general whitewash of the officer was planned.

Hobbs was a high school student and had experienced no trouble with police, probation officers or school authorities.

According to reports, he had attended an amateur program at the 125th Street Theatre on the riot night and was on his way home, when he ran at the approach of a radio car with officers on the running board.

Two Shots Fired

Officer McInerney fired twice at him; Hobbs fell. He was bundled into the radio car and rushed to the hospital, while his younger brother, Russell, went home to tell his parents.

When his mother reached the hospital, the dying boy said:

"Mother, they have shot me for nothing."

Substantial citizens who happened to be on the street, came forward to testify. Some claimed they saw the boy and his friends before the shooting, but did not see him break the window and others say they saw his shot without warning.

Evidence Eleven Days Old

While the police investigators could not find any eye-witnesses, the mayor's commission found six or eight, but the officer's claim and the evidence of loot, which was

not produced until eleven days after the shooting, registered with the grand jury and McInerney continues on his beat. A police departmental trial is being pushed, but this gives no hopes to Mr. and Mrs. Lawyer Hobbs, of 321 St. Nicholas Avenue, that the case will pass the investigating stages. Saul Price, assistant district attorney presented the case to the grand jury.

Killings-1935

White Southerner Gets 20 Years For Killing Negro Druggist in Holdup

WILMINGTON, N. C.—Refusing to differentiate between races in administering justice, Judge J. Paul Frizzelle of the New Hanover County Superior Court sentenced Francis Yonge Legare jr., 21-year-old scion of a family long prominent in Charleston, S. C., to a term of from 20 to 25 years in the state prison, following his conviction on January 18, of a second degree murder in the slaying of C. W. Mason, local Negro druggist, in an attempted holdup on October 27, 1934.

Several witnesses had testified for the state that they heard Legare say, "I shot him," when he was chased and captured by a Negro bystander immediately after the shooting.

Charlotte, N. C. News
January 8, 1935

For the File.

Not that it is of any noticeable public concern, but it should be recorded for filing purposes, if for no other, that last year in Charlotte there were 43 homicides. This compares unfavorably with 1933's 38 killings (38 is the police statistician's figure; we made it 39 by including a Negro woman shot in fun, so to speak). It compares even more unfavorably with the 15 killings in 1932.

And if we are to continue this odious business of comparisons, let us get to the heart of it. For all of its millions, there are fewer murders in the city of London than in Charlotte. For all of its name for violence and gangsterism, there are fewer killings proportionately in Chicago than in Charlotte. Charlotte's rate of homicides per 100,000 population is four times as great as that for the rest of the nation.

Undeniably most of our killings are of Negroes by Negroes, which is no excuse for the frequency of them and no comfort whatsoever. Chicago might with equal appropriateness say that all of its killings are of gangsters by gang-

sters. The trouble is that one cannot be sure of their continued contentment with such intramural sport. They may begin to look for entertainment elsewhere.

Another Double Standard

FREQUENTLY before in these columns attention has been called to the uneven course of justice as it touches Negro and white prisoners charged with identical crimes. North Carolina has just added another illustration of added significance in view of the apparent judicial sanction given to this legal differential.

A 21-year-old white youth, FRANCIS YOUNGE LEGARE, scion of an aristocratic Charleston, S. C., family, shot and killed Dr. CARLYLE W. MASON, popular and respected Wilmington, N. C. drug store proprietor, in what appeared to be a hold-up. LEGARE was apprehended, brought to trial on a "not guilty" plea and confronted for a day and a half with strong and criminating evidence.

Abruptly, LEGARE through his attorney entered a plea of guilty to second degree murder, which was accepted by the solicitor prosecuting the youth. The matter of punishment rested with Judge J. PAUL

FRIZZELLE. Whether the term of 20 to 25 years imposed by the court meets the ends of justice in this case is a matter of personal opinion.

It is significant, however, that the reasons given by the prosecutor for his acceptance of the guilty plea conform to the prevailing double standard of justice. He told the court that he did not expect conviction in the first degree and added as other grounds the fact that he was away from home, and the fact that at the time he entered the drug store he was without funds.

To the lay mind, such circumstances strengthen a belief that the crime was deliberate and cold-blooded, and dispel even the slightest accumulation of sympathy and mercy. The testimony offered in extenuation, instead of making the second degree plea more easily acceptable, provides the missing facts upon which a first degree verdict might have been found.

Judge FRIZZELLE added that he did not consider LEGARE an ordinary murderer and that he did not believe the defendant would have been convicted of more than manslaughter had the case gone to the jury. The jurist was right; LEGARE was not an ordinary murderer; he was of the most dangerous anti-social type. And granting Judge FRIZZELLE's premise that a jury would have found no worse than manslaughter, it nevertheless does not give him license to impose any lesser punishment upon the prisoner when that duty became his than that

which the character of the crime justified.

By his deliberate and unprovoked killing, LEGARE made a grief stricken widow and left three little children without a father. No unequivocal concept of justice would suggest a punishment less severe than that which would have been meted out to a Negro had he committed the same crime upon a white man under the same circumstances.

RALEIGH, N. C.
NEWS OBSERVER

WILMINGTON, N. C.
STAR

MAR 4 1935

Murder Case

In Guilford Superior Court on Saturday one Negro was found guilty of killing another Negro and sentenced to a term in the State's Prison. There was nothing unusual in that but it was unusual that the dead man lived 10 months and himself served a sentence on the county roads between the time he was shot and the time he died. The jury found, however, that he died 10 months later from infection in the pistol wound his assailant.

Certainly it is the jury's business to determine the facts. But from this distance it looks as if it might have looked into the type of medical treatment which is provided on the Guilford county roads. If the man was well enough to be sent to the roads, it seems strange that in the county's care proper medical treatment could not have cured a wound which he survived so long. If he was not well enough to be sent to the roads, then the system of justice that sent him there would seem to deserve a little attention, too.

Southern courts are perhaps too lenient as a general thing with Negroes who kill Negroes but in this case there seems to be less leniency toward the defendant than to those agencies of society and justice which intervened or failed to intervene between a Negro shooting at a party and a Negro being sent to the State's Prison in the Superior Court.

APR 17 1935

NOTE ON JUSTICE

Two Winston-Salem negroes have been sentenced to die in the lethal gas chamber at Raleigh for the holdup murder of another negro in the Twin City.

This newspaper, which usually does not approve of capital punishment, hails this verdict, since it is the law of the state that first degree murder be punished by death.

It is seldom that southern courts and juries seem inclined to visit the supreme penalty where only negroes are involved, and therein they commit a grave error.

The slightest condoning of a crime of any nature breeds in the minds of the offender and his friends a disrespect for courts and disregard for law that is dangerous to the entire social structure.

When gangsters first began the gentle art of putting rivals "on the spot," big city police were not alarmed. They seemed at times to follow the idea that so long as only gangsters were concerned it might be a good riddance to let them depopulate their own numbers.

But the gangster took advantage of that. He soon went outside the underworld. He intimidated witnesses; he assassinated public officials, and in several instances even murdered innocent children who stood between him and his prospective victim. In the end, it was necessary for the federal government to rise and crush this product of the post-war days.

So in North Carolina where there are only white courts, white prosecutors and in most instances white juries. Murder is the most annoying crime in the state and the most frequent. It is incumbent on juries where an all-negro murder is concerned that they give it the same consideration as they would were race issues not involved. By so doing, they will teach the negro killer and potential killer a deeper respect for orderliness.

Routine Murder Trials.

Within less than thirty hours this week three Negroes, in three separate cases, were tried in Mecklenburg superior court while their lives hung in the balance. Rhetorically speaking, that is. While all three faced charges of murder in the first degree, their lives weren't actually hanging in the balance. The persons they were charged with having slain were, it developed, also Negroes. And that makes a vast difference.

One of the three defendants, a Negress, went free after a jury declared her not guilty. By the jury route the two Negro men were convicted of (as if you hadn't already guessed) second degree murder. As a result they will serve prison terms of moderate length for having taken human life. True, they slew but members of their own race, and not whites.

Perhaps thirty hours, with a night's recess thrown in, were ample for presentation of the evidence for the state and the defendants. Yet—suppose that the Negroes had been charged with slaying whites, or, again, that the alleged killers and victims both had been white? (We shall not be unkind enough to ask you to suppose that one of the defendants was a white and his victim a Negro.) Everyone knows the answers; they're in the back of the book.

Mecklenburg superior court actually consumed more than a day during the same week deciding the fate of a slot machine! At the same time two other Negroes were, are now, in fact, languishing in jail awaiting trial on charges of having murdered two members of their own race. Their lives too are, technically, at stake.

WHITE MAN RELEASED WHO KILLED NEGRO BLACKSMITH

EYE WITNESSES SAY ALLEN GUILTY OF COLD
BLOODED MURDER; NEW PROBE STARTS

Woman Declared Money Missing From Dead Man's Body

"It was cold-blooded murder. I looked at it with my own eyes," declared Joe Gentry, 700 North Nebraska, Wednesday when he came to the Black Dispatch office and told of the killing of Fred McCullum, 59-year-old Negro blacksmith, Saturday afternoon by Verne Allen, 38, white garage mechanic, a fall, following the altercation with Allen.

Said "Get Some Beer"
"I was coming up Kate going north when I heard some one say 'Cut that noise out and quit squabbling.' I looked in the garage and it was 'Whitty' the peg-leg fellow who made that statement. Whitty then said, 'cut it out and take those quarters and get me some beer; he tried to hand the money to McCullum.'"

Struck With Wrench
"Before he could hand the money to McCullum, Verne Allen rushed up and said, 'Wait a minute, I'll fix that G—— D—— black S——'."

"It looked like a pipe wrench to me that he struck McCullum with, and when he struck him full in the forehead above the eyes, McCullum just kinder gave away but walked about ten feet, then slowly sank to his knees; then he toppled to his all fours and slowly sagged to the ground," said Gentry.

Release Murderer
Although county officials have been investigating this dastardly crime which happened about 4:30 Saturday, and Allen apprehended, the man was released following an investigation launched by acting coroner Joseph E. Deupree. Allen was jailed Monday but was at liberty Tuesday.

Second Investigation
Assistant County Attorney John Eberle started an additional probe of the facts following a visit to his office Wednesday, by Editor Roscoe Dunjee, who took with him three witnesses who gave eye-witness testimony as to what actually happened.

It appears that the investigation up to the time that Editor Dunjee took the witnesses to the county attorney's office, had shown that McCullum had met his death from

Negro Kills Texas Farmer; Sheriff Tells 'Hog' Story

LUFKIN, Texas, Dec. 19.

Neches River bottoms were being searched this week for a desperate Negro farmer who following mistreatment by his landlord, slew a Trinity county farmer and seriously wounded a deputy sheriff.

The slain farmer was Edgar Womack, about 50, living near Apple Springs, a community 17 miles northwest of Lufkin. It was on his farm the shooting occurred Thursday night. Deputy Sheriff C. C. Thorn was wounded, but not seriously.

The sharecropper was identified as Harry Lacy, 45, a laborer who had worked for Womack. Trinity county officers were trailing him through the tangled brush along the river bottoms.

The injured officer tells a bum lie regarding the cause of the shooting. According to his story, Womack lost some hogs and accused Lacy of stealing them. It is quite evident that Womack and Lacy went to Lacy's home, and according to Thorn, found Lacy butchering the pig.

"We ordered Lacy to shoulder the hog on his back and proceed to take it back to Womack's house. This Lacy did, and while we were following behind him, Lacy suddenly dropped the hog and started firing at us with his rifle."

Just how Womack and Thorn permitted Lacy to be carrying both the hog and the rifle without protest, since they were both armed, has not been explained. It seems unreasonable to believe that any such set of circumstances actually occurred. Those in the know whisper that something far different happened down on the Womack farm.

"White folks shoot armed Negroes down in this section," declared one Negro farmer. No one believes that Lacy was allowed to carry a rifle and a hog at the same time; at least this was not permitted by two armed white bullies.

How The Row Started

The blow climaxed an argument which began when the Negro objected to Allen using his forge to heat a soldering iron. G. H. Romberger, garage owner, told officers Thomas Bell, who lives at 1401 East Seventh, said he was seated on his front porch Saturday afternoon. Bell lives on the north side of the street and was looking south into the open doorway of the garage.

Spun Around Like Top

"I did not see Allen strike McCullum, but I looked just in time to see McCullum spin around as though stunned by something. I could tell by his movements that something was wrong so I rushed across the street just in time to see him sag. He seemingly just knelt down, and blood was streaming from his forehead. The workmen in the shop, seven of them had not stopped working. They, however, kept turning and looking at McCullum. Not one of them went to his assistance.

Mary Suggs, who washed clothes for McCullum, said that recently when she went to the garage to see McCullum she heard Allen using violent and offensive language to McCullum.

Mrs. Suggs also states that two persons who were with McCullum a few minutes before the murder, allege that McCullum had a large roll of money upon him. No money was discovered on his person following the killing, according to Mrs. Suggs.

Killings—1935

Oregon.

Negro, Saved from Death, Tortured in 'Bull Pen'

Daily Worker
9-21-35 New York.

SALEM, Ore., Sept. 20.—Theodore Jordan, young Negro saved from the Oregon hangman by the nation-wide protest led by the International Labor Defense after the authorities made a desperate effort to hang him for a murder he did not commit, is in the "bull pen" at the Oregon State Penitentiary, charged by prison officials with violating prison regulations, and denied visits even from his mother or his attorney.

"Even his own mother couldn't see him now," a prison guard sadistically told a committee inquiring about the sudden and sinister disappearance of the victim, whose death sentences was commuted to life imprisonment.

The "bull pen" punishment is for indefinite time, and "depends largely on his conduct," Warden J. W. Lewis explained in a letter to Irvin Goodman, I. L. D. attorney. A form—intensely vicious—of solitary confinement, the Oregon "bull pen" demonstrates the resourcefulness of prison sadists at engineering cruelty. Small, cement cells, 4 feet by 8 feet long, and 7 feet high, without beds or bedding, are exposed to weather on one side. No sewage system is provided—only open buckets. A cement slab is the only bed—and when two victims are placed in one cell, one of them sleeps on the floor which becomes a pool of water in rainy weather.

Prisoners have been known to have spent two years in these pens—they have been known to die in them from exposure and undernourishment. Food provided is only sufficient to sustain life, and only brief periods of exercising in the "bull ring" are permitted.

The International Labor Defense asks that organizations and individuals rush protests against Jordan's treatment, sending resolutions and letters to Warden J. W. Lewis, Oregon State Penitentiary, and that protests include a demand for the discontinuing of the "bull pens," which are not only an instrument of cruelty, but a direct violation of Oregon law which prohibits "cruel and inhuman punishment" by prison officials (Section 67-1901. Oregon Law)

Killings-1935

Nineteen Killings and Suicides in Philly Last Week

PHILADELPHIA. — Nineteen persons died here of either sudden or violent deaths last week, as revealed by a check-up at the coroner's office. Of that number three were victims of murder and two suicides.

They were:

Pussey Purnell, 48, 2130 Naudaine Street; Joseph Wayland, 52, 2239 Woodstock Street; Dorothy Braust, 23, 1926 Judson Street; Sophius Jackson, 34, 846 N. 10th Street; Frank Morris, 56, 1304 Bainbridge Street; Robert Coles, 49, 1326 W. Girard Avenue; Verlon Bass, 40, 400 S. Twelfth Street; Wilbur Mesion, 4 days, 2241 Reed Street.

Thomas Williams, 38, 2439 Berks Street; Cora Jackson, 15, 2001 Nicholas Street; William Halicong, Pa.; Bernice Noone, 21, 765 N. Forty-seventh Street; Tilghman Gee, 30, 853 N. Forty-eighth Street; Ethel Holstein, 4 days, 709 N. Eighth Street; Vernon Bird, 30, 1704 South Street; Baby Small, 6 hours, 105 W. Duva Street; Arthur, 53, 805 Parrish Street and George Brown, 26, 1617 N. Tenth Street.

Pennsylvania

Killings-1935

Highway Cop Killed, Arrest Thirty In S. C.

GREENVILLE, S. C., Jan. 3 — (By ANP)—Christmas night State Highway Patrolman E. D. Milam was killed in a scuffle at a colored church near here. It was reported that he had gone to the church after reports of a disturbance at a party in progress there.

After the shooting of the white officer, 30 persons, practically all those who were at the party, were placed in jail. The efforts of the police to track down the killer.

Thursday two men, Cornell Luster and Clarence Dill, were arrested in Asheville, N. C., in connection with the crime. It was claimed that Luster confessed that he and the white officer had scuffled over a pistol and that the patrolman had been shot. Luster implicated Hill. Both men were taken to the State penitentiary to dodge a mob.

TWO NEGROES GUILTY OF SLAYING OFFICER

GREENVILLE, S. C., Jan. 23. — (UP)—Cornell Luster and Harry Hill, negroes, were found guilty late today on charges of murdering a state highway patrolman, E. D. Milam.

The jury deliberated for an hour before returning its verdict of guilt, which carries a penalty of death in the electric chair. Sentence was deferred until motions for a new trial are heard Friday.

The negroes were accused of shooting and beating Milam to death when he attempted to quell a disturbance at a Christmas tree party near here on Christmas Day.

CHARLESTON, S. C.
NEWS AND COURIER

ler of intelligence", and the governor saw it. The man is not insane, he is not an imbecile. The governor perceived that the friendless creature was a proper subject for clemency and he exercised it.

"It was a first rate piece of work," said a Charlestonian yesterday, and it was. The judge, Mr. Johnson, and the solicitor, Mr. Spigner, shared in it. And Governor Johnston has been careful and scrupulous, like an old-fashioned governor, like a Hampton or a Simpson, in issuing pardons and commutations.

Judges and others in authority have been looking after poor negroes always in South Carolina. Cases are unknown when injustice has been done negroes if the judge could stop it.

Incidents like this commutation by Governor Johnston are never mentioned in the Northern "liberal press", a press which tries the "Scottsboro boys", acquits them, denounces the Southern courts—and obstructs the efforts in the South to put an end to lynchings.

South Carolina.

NOV 9 1935

"First Rate Piece of Work"

A negro twenty-five years old confessed to the murder of a negro girl, was tried and condemned to die, in Columbia. He was undoubtedly guilty. The judge and the prosecuting officer recommended that the sentence be commuted. Governor Johnston, who has been sparing in the exercise of executive clemency, went to the prison and saw the negro.

In the shadow of death the man did not even ask for clemency. "He is of a low or-

Killings-1935
6

Tennessee.

Nashville, Tenn. Tennessean—Wing

November 6, 1935

NEGROES CONFESS MATLOCK MURDER

Each Charges Other With
Actual Slaying of
Aged Man.

Two negroes of Fayetteville were in Davidson County jail, guarded against possible mob violence to-day after they told the same story of the murder of a white man of Lincoln County, each claiming that the other actually committed the killing.

The negroes, Anderson Berry, 25, and Jim Smith, 27, told identical stories of the slaying of Hugh Matlock, 65, marble worker, last Thursday afternoon, each accusing the other of beating the victim into insensibility with a rock, cutting his throat and concealing his body under some honeysuckle vines in a ditch near the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway tracks.

Robbery Was Motive.

Both negroes admitted that robbery was their motive. According to Sheriff John A. Pool of Lincoln County, they said they expected to get \$1,200 or \$1,500. However they said they found nothing in their victim's pockets.

They met Matlock at the railroad tracks two miles from Fayetteville about 4:30 o'clock Thursday afternoon, when Matlock was walking home from work.

Here each negro said the other told Matlock to look at the geese flying overhead. He looked up and said, "Why boys, I can't see any geese. Your eyesight is better than mine."

Body Concealed in Ditch.

When he looked down one negro had a pistol in his hand and ordered Matlock to drop the "dam stick" he was carrying. The negro then hit his victim over the head with a home-made blackjack, beat him unconscious and cut his throat with a knife. He was thrown into the ditch and covered with some honeysuckle vines.

Two negro youths found his body at 3 o'clock the next afternoon.

Berry and Smith were first arrested Saturday, released, and arrested again Sunday. They waived preliminary hearing yesterday before a Lincoln County magistrate and were bound over to circuit court, which will meet in Fayetteville in February.

They were brought here last

night by Deputy Sheriff Gordon Hardin and L. H. Campbell, Fayetteville chief of police. Mr. Hardin said, "We did not fear any mob, but feeling was running high through the county and we thought it best to bring them here."

He said both negroes have served numerous sentences in the Lincoln County jail for petit larceny.

New York World Telegram

NOV 14 1935

LIFE FOR KILLING NEGRO

Three White Men Caught and Sentenced Within Twenty-four Hours.

By the Associated Press.

COLUMBIA, Tenn., Nov. 13.—

Pleading guilty to charges of murder in connection with the slaying of an 80-year-old Negro woman, three

white men were sentenced to life imprisonment less than twenty-four hours after their arrest.

The trio, Albert Earl Fleming, George Skillern and Hobart Grimes, were arrested Tuesday night.

Saying their motive was robbery,

District Attorney General C. L.

Boyd related that the men fatally

shot Jennie Hawkins Monday night

after entering her home. They took

a \$20 bill and a \$5 gold piece from

the house.

Nashville, Tenn.

Morning Tennessean

NOV 15 1935

The Law Acts.

Maury County is to be congratulated upon the speedy and certain manner in which a crime against an aged negro couple was dealt with.

Three white men entered the rural home of Red

and Jennie Hawkins, each 80 years old, Monday

night, to rob them. When the husband sought to

repulse them he was struck on the head with a

blunt weapon. His wife, coming to his rescue from

an adjoining room, was first beaten and then shot

to death, and three bullets were fired into the hus-

band. His condition is serious. The white hood-

lums then robbed the negroes of \$25.

The good reputation of the negro couple, their

courage in the face of overwhelming odds, their de-

votion to each other and the brutality of the attack

on them rightly stirred up feeling in Maury County

against the killers. That feeling, however, was ex-

pressed legally.

The three killers were indicted Wednesday and

the same day they were tried, convicted and sen-

tenced. And before there was an opportunity for

any display of violence against them, they were on

their way to Nashville and the penitentiary.

Thus an atrocious and unprovoked crime has been

avenged and possible mob action with its disgrace

to state and county has been averted simply be- cause the enforcement officials and court acted with vigor and dispatch.

Nashville, Tenn. Tennessean

November 15, 1935

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THREE WHITE MEN GET LIFE
FOR KILLING COLORED

WOMAN

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ANP)—

George Skillern, 21, of Rockdale,

Tenn.; Albert Earl Fleming, 54,

Mt. Pleasant, a painter; and Ho-

bart Grimes, 33, of Columbia,

Tenn., all white who confessed to

having killed and robbed Jennie

Hawkins, 80, in Columbia, are now

serving life terms in the Tennessee

state prison. They confessed.

Killings-1935

NEGRO LEADERS BAND TO REDUCE KILLINGS

Group Given Plan by Davis
and Homicide Chief

EDUCATION CALLED NEED

Loan Shop and Bookstore Reg-
ulations Urged as Curb to
Young Offenders—Sermons
Outlined

After voting to support Commis-
sioner Davis' educational plan to
reduce the negro homicide rate here
in 1935, 63 negro educators, minis-
ters and business men suggested
that police clean up negro dives
and place rigid restrictions on
pawn shops and second-hand book
stores.

Called by Commissioner Davis to
meet yesterday in city courtroom,
the negro leaders elected Rev. T. O.
Fuller chairman of a homicide com-
mittee and M. E. Brown, secretary.

Commissioner Davis outlined his
program to provide the teaching of
negroes in their homes, schools and
churches, to respect the law and to
aid in apprehending criminals.
Suggestion for sermons on "Thou
Shalt Not Kill," was approved.

1934 Total Was 79

Capt. Frank Glisson, homicide
chief, revealed that 79 negroes were
slain last year.

Another meeting on March 9 was
called.

"We are intensely interested in
cutting the negro homicide rate,"
Rev. Fuller said. "This group has a
great responsibility. The reports
by Commissioner Davis and Cap-
tain Glisson are startling revela-
tions, but we face a handicap in
eliminating to a large extent the
homicides. Teaching our children
how to live lawful lives gets at the
bottom of the condition."

He pointed out that crime among
the negroes has been increased by
economic needs and that congested
housing conditions are in reality
"schools of crime."

Only Three on Beale

"Lack of enforcement of truancy
laws is giving many time to get into
mischief," he said. "We do not have

sufficient officers to enforce the
law. As a result many negro youths
are truants when they should be in
schools.

"Police should have more rigid
regulations on pawn shops and sec-
ond-hand book stores. These places
provide a place for disposing of
stolen goods. A negro child can
steal a book and sell it without
trouble. More rigid enforcement
would prevent the sale of firearms."

Commissioner Davis said that a
new regulation on the selling of
second-hand books is being pre-
pared.

Commissioner Davis pointed out
that negro homicides are scattered
over the city. Only one homicide
occurred in Orange Mound, where
many negroes are buying homes.
Three took place on Beale Avenue.

NASHVILLE, TENN

BANNER

MAR 7 1935

State Press

There were 78 Negro homicides in
Memphis last year—57 men and
21 women.

A group of Negro preachers and teach-
ers has promised Police Commissioner
Davis to form an organization to com-
bat crime among the Negroes.

It is a worthwhile undertaking but
to be successful it must have the co-
operation of the white people of Mem-
phis.

In the past there has been a dispo-
sition not to pay much attention to
homicides that involved only Negroes.
This has extended to some extent even
to the Police Department and to the
courts.

It is dangerous apathy.

Negroes are entitled to protection.
They cannot have it when members
of their race can kill and get away with
it because they have not crossed the
color line.

INDICTED FOR MURDER

Four Negroes Accused of Death of
Farmer

SOMERVILLE, Tenn., March 28.—
The Fayette County grand jury
returned indictments against four
negroes held in connection with the
fatal shooting on Dec. 25 of New-
frey Graham, Somerville farmer.

Atty. Gen. George Watkins said to-
day.

Buddy Harris, Graham's house-
boy; Tom McGowan, a tenant on
the Graham farm; and Albert Polk
of Hardeman County were indicted
on murder counts. Alice Coach, the
Graham cook, was named as an ac-
cessory.

SLAYER OF DEPUTY HELD IN JAIL HERE

Negro Ex-Convict Stabbed

Dyer Officer to Death

KILLED CAPTOR IN ALLEY

Prisoner Attacked Victim With

Knife at Dyersburg While

He Was Being Taken to Jail

There

Charged with the murder of Dep-
uty Sheriff "Redge" Walton, 45,
Dyer County officer, John Ander-
son Pruitt, negro ex-convict, was
placed in the Shelby County jail late
yesterday afternoon for safe-keep-
ing following his capture near Dy-
ersburg, where Deputy Walton was
stabbed to death Saturday night.

Deputy Walton had arrested the
negro in Dyersburg Saturday night
and was taking a short cut through
an alley on the way to jail when
Pruitt stabbed him in the heart
with a pocket knife.

The negro fled and was arrested
yesterday at Henning. According to
information from Dyersburg, the
negro previously staged a gun bat-
tle with Dyer County officers be-
fore he was arrested on a robbery
charge and sent to the penitentiary
for a short term.

Pruitt, who was brought to Mem-
phis by Sheriff Clarence William
son of Dyer County, will be held
in jail here for safe-keeping pend-
ing his arraignment at Dyersburg.

POLICE PROBE SLAYING

OF NEGRO PREACHER

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 29.—
Sheriff Sid Campbell of Hernan-
do, Miss., said today that he was
investigating the slaying near Hernan-
do of a negro preacher whose pocket
contained literature on the organiza-
tion of sharecroppers and who wore
an "every man a king" button in his
coat lapel.

Sheriff Campbell said the body of
the Rev. T. A. Allen, a Marks, Miss.,
negro, was found in the shallow wa-
ter of the Coldwater river, just off
highway 51, by a party of fishermen
yesterday afternoon. He had been
shot through the heart. The corpse,
the sheriff said, was weighted down
with chains about the waist, but was
still floating.

NEGROES GET DEATH IN FAYETTE SLAYING

Jury Deliberates Only 15 Min-
utes In Case

SOMERVILLE, Tenn., May 1.—
Albert Polk, Tom McGowan and
Buddy Harris, negroes, charged
with the murder of Newfrey Gra-
ham, farmer, were found guilty in
circuit court this afternoon and sen-
tenced to death in the electric chair.

The jury was out only 15 minutes.

This is the first death penalty im-
posed in Fayette County in 20 years.

Judge R. B. Baptist set May 17 as
date for hearing of motion for a
new trial. The negroes are alleged-
ed to have shot Graham near his home
east of Somerville on Christmas day
and robbed him of several hundred
dollars.

NEGRO ON TRIAL TODAY

Pruitt Charged With Murder In
Slaying of Dyer Deputy

DYERSBURG, Tenn., April 29.—
Waiving the two-day provision be-
tween indictment and trial in a
formal arraignment in circuit court
here, John Anderson Pruitt, negro,
charged with the slaying of Deputy
Sheriff Redge Walton of Newbern,
will go to trial here tomorrow.

Pruitt was indicted here yesterday
by the grand jury in special session.
He is charged with first degree
murder.

Pruitt, who has been held in the
Shelby County jail since the slaying
except when he was returned to the
Dyersburg jail recently for a se-
cret preliminary hearing, was re-
moved to the Dyersburg jail yes-
terday. The court has named Attor-
neys D. J. H. Caldwell and Watkins
of Dyersburg to defend him. Will
Ewell of Dyersburg is of broad-
cast the music.

Directors in charge are Miss M.
E. Smith and G. H. Lennon. Miss
Elizabeth Sharpe and Wilson Col-
lins are general supervisors.

The Gold Star pupils' parade
will include 1000 pupils; the
band drill, 500 boys; folk dances
300 junior girls; May Pole dance
200 elementary girls. There also
will be pyramid-making by junior
and senior boys.

NEGRO VENIRE ISSUE

INVOKED FOR SLAYER

McMinnville Jury Sentences

17-Year-Old to Death

5-4-35

MCMINNIVILLE, Tenn., May 3.—
(AP)—Ernest Womack, 17-year-old
negro, was convicted by a Warren
County jury late today of the mur-
der of Paul Cunningham, taxi driv-
er and World War veteran, and his
punishment fixed at death.

Immediately after jury selection
was completed yesterday, defense
counsel filed a plea in abatement
in an effort to quash the indictment
on grounds of discrimination. The
plea set forth that no negroes had
been summoned, impaneled or sworn
in as members of the grand jury
which indicted young Womack.

State's witnesses Ed Burgess and
A. T. Inman, Nashville, Tenn., de-
testives, testified that Womack con-
fessed to shooting and robbing Cun-
ningham after he was arrested in
Nashville.

They testified the negro admitted
he fired on the cab driver with a
shotgun and then pulled him out
of the taxi and took \$18 from his
pockets.

Knoxville, Tenn. News Sentinel
May 10, 1935

2000 NEGRO PUPILS

PLAN HEALTH MARCH

Austin High Band Will Lead

Parade at Knox College.

Two thousand children from
the 11 Negro schools will hold
the 11 Negro schools held
health demonstration at 11 a. m.
today at Knoxville College
Field. The public was invited.
Street car transportation was
provided for the pupils and
a free show will be given at the
Gem Theater.

The Austin High School band
will lead the parade on the field
and the Knoxville College band
will also play. Amplifiers will
broadcast the music.

Directors in charge are Miss M.
E. Smith and G. H. Lennon. Miss
Elizabeth Sharpe and Wilson Col-
lins are general supervisors.

The Gold Star pupils' parade
will include 1000 pupils; the
band drill, 500 boys; folk dances
300 junior girls; May Pole dance
200 elementary girls. There also
will be pyramid-making by junior
and senior boys.

YOUNG EXONERATED FOR SLAYING NEGRO

Reprimanded (by Judge for Leaving Victim to Die
3-12-35

LAKE VILLAGE, March 11.—Chris Young, 50, was acquitted in Chicot circuit court here this afternoon of charges for murdering Wash Spencer, negro.

Young killed Spencer in a dispute over some logs in the Mississippi River, which the negro was rafting, but which Young claimed.

The state showed that Young borrowed a shotgun from a friend and rode down the river in a boat to see Spencer. While Young was still in the boat he shot and fatally injured.

Judge Patrick Henry reprimanded Young for leaving the negro without giving him aid after the shooting. Young claimed he shot in self-defense, although no gun was found on Spencer.

Trial of T. R. Jacobs, McGehee attorney, charged with embezzlement, scheduled to be heard Tuesday, was continued.

ACUSE NEGROES IN DEATH

Four Will Face Trial at Somerville in Farmer's Slaying
SOMERVILLE, Tenn., March 12.—Four negroes are scheduled to face trial on murder charges growing out of the slaying of Newfrey Graham, 28-year-old farmer, when circuit court convenes here March 25.

The defendants are Albert Polk, Tom McGowan and Buddy Harris, charged with the actual slaying, and Alice Coach, an alleged accessory. They are alleged to have waylaid and shot Graham near Somerville Dec. 25.

Negro Prefers Trial By Jury Of 'White Folks'

CLEVELAND, TENN., June 20.—(P)—Ab Mack, negro on trial for murder here today, told Judge John J. Blair "I'd rather be tried by white folks than by a black nigger," when his attorneys entered a plea in abatement on the grounds that the Grand Jury contained no negroes.

Judge Blair informed the defendant that he would be tried by a white jury, overruling the plea, which was based on the grounds of the United States supreme court rulings in the Scottsboro, Ala., case.

However, there was no trial as the negro subsequently submitted to a charge of second degree murder and was given a ten-year sentence.

WHITE JURY ASKED Negro Doesn't Want 'A Black Nigger' in Box.

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However, there was no trial as the negro subsequently submitted to a charge of second-degree murder and was given a ten-year sentence.

THREE NEGROES SLAIN

Two Stank Toe to Toe and "Shoot Apples"

Three negroes had died yesterday and several others were nursing wounds as a result of the summer's most serious outburst of shooting and cutting scrapes among negroes.

George Driver, 1368 Miss and Calvin Wright, living on the Malone Road, "stood toe and toe and shot it out" with each other at 3:20 a.m. Sunday on the Chulahoma Road, according to Deputies Friddle and Cox. Wright died almost instantly, Driver an hour later in General Hospital.

The third negro, Will Phillips of Woodstock, died at 2 o'clock yesterday morning in the General Hospital following a knife fight Sunday afternoon one mile north of Woodstock on Highway 51.

Deputies were searching yesterday for Ernest Blake and Rufus Henry, two negroes suspected of having participated in the latter fracas.

SLAYING OF SHEEHAN

CONFESSED BY NEGRO

Ex-Convict Tells of Firing When Surprised

Memphis Tenn. ADMITS THEFT SERIES

8-9-35

Murder Charge Will Be Placed Against James Clark Today

—Former Friends Lead To Arrest

As calmly as he robbed homes, James Clark, 23-year-old negro ex-convict, faced a group of police officials and business men yesterday afternoon and confessed firing the shot which ended the life of Rich-

ard Thomas Sheehan, 27-year-old ex-grid star.

Clark was arrested 11 hours after Sheehan died at Methodist Hospital from a bullet wound inflicted when he surprised Clark robbing his home, 1605 Waverly, at 4 o'clock Wednesday morning.

"I was scared. I thought he meant to hurt me," the negro told Inspector Griffin.

Arrested Yesterday

He confessed five hours after his arrest. He was arrested at his home, 977 Woodlawn, at 8:45 o'clock yesterday morning. Credit for Clark's arrest is being officially given to Patrolmen Charles Peek and Johnny Gannon. They obtained the first information linking Clark with the crime.

The negro detailed how Sheehan crept from his bed to a kitchen door in the home. As he started towards him, the negro fired and ran. Clark described a half dozen or more house robberies and confessed to stealing four automobiles since June.

When first arrested the negro denied all knowledge of the Sheehan murder. He said he spent Tuesday night at his home. From Ed Robinson, negro, and his wife, Mildred Robinson, Inspector Griffin learned that Clark left the Woodlawn address at 10 o'clock Tuesday night, taking with him a pistol wrapped in newspaper.

From another negro, L. C. Smith, 28, 748 Ropers' Alley, who was taken into custody shortly before Clark was arrested, Inspector Griffin learned that Clark went to Smith's home at 1 o'clock Wednesday morning and had in his possession a small automobile.

Confesses Slaying

Confronted by the Robinson negroes and Smith, the suspect confessed. "You got me, I may as well tell the truth," he is quoted as saying.

Clark told of stealing an automobile late Tuesday night from in front of 1294 Lapaloma. He used that to drive to the Sheehan home. The car was found abandoned at 11 o'clock Wednesday in front of 703 Bethel, a short distance from Clark's home. He told of stealing another car on Peabody, and two others on Beale which police later found abandoned. Smith was arrested at 7 o'clock yesterday morning by Peek and Gannon. Smith quickly told the officers that Clark was the negro they wanted.

Reinforcing their squad with Patrolmen W. E. Rawford and L. W. Shapley, the officers went to Clark's home and found him hiding under a cot. Searching the home the officers found several watches, two guns, small articles of jewelry, ladies' purses, toilet articles and a large quantity of wearing apparel, all of which he said he took from homes which he robbed.

One of the watches was identified by F. B. Parrish as having been stolen from his room at 933 Peabody on the night of Aug. 4. Mrs. Max Severs, at whose home Parrish

resides, said her home was entered through a bedroom window.

The negro declared that Smith was with him on the night of the Sheehan shooting and added that Smith was his companion in all of his robberies. Smith denied implication in any of the robberies.

Doubts Story

"I am convinced that the Smith negro was not with lark when he shot down Herman Strong, 16-year-old shot young Sheehan. Four witnesses saw only one man flee the home after the shooting, and saw only one man enter the automobile which was parked a short distance from the Sheehan home," Inspector Griffin said.

Smith will be held pending investigation into the series of recent house robberies.

Police records show that lark served part of a three-year sentence in the state penitentiary for larceny. After his release he returned to Memphis and on Sept. 22, 1934, he shot and slightly wounded L. K. Liggins, negro. The shooting followed an argument over a craps game at East Crematory. He was sentenced to serve 11 months and 29 days on a charge of shooting with intent to kill.

Clark escaped from the Shelby County workhouse on June 1, this year. Since he has been hiding in various sections of the city. He has used alias names of James Foster, James Johnson, and "Pepperhead," police said. Smith is known as "Railroad."

Murder charges will be placed against Clark today.

Requiem mass will be said for Mr. Sheehan at 9:30 o'clock this morning at Immaculata Conception Church. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery with Spencer-Sturla in charge.

Negro Is Convicted.

KNOWVILLE, Tenn., Sept. 26.—(P)—A Knox county criminal court jury composed of 11 white men and one negro, today convicted James Barrett, negro, of first-degree murder in the slaying of W. M. Hardwick, negro grocer, and fixed his punishment at death in the electric chair.

Memphis, Tenn. Commercial Appeal September 26, 1935

THREE NEGROES GIVEN TERMS FOR SLAYINGS

Trio Plead Guilty to Charges in Criminal Court

One slayer who killed two persons was sentenced to 20 years in criminal court Monday while two who killed one person were given life imprisonment.

Circumstances of the slaying caused the disparity. All of the principals were negroes and all

three defendants pleaded guilty.

Oscar Phillips shot and killed Caledonia Moore on Feb. 4, 1934, his bullets accidentally killing a bystander, Gilbert Wilson. The jury held there were mitigating circumstances.

But Woodrow Davis, alias Southpaw, and Earl Bearden, alias Cooter, had little provocation when they shot down Herman Strong, 16-year-old grocery boy last May 25. Robbery was the motive, although they did not get a cent. They drew life terms.

Pete Clisaris, Little Rock gangster and paroled convict, pleaded not guilty to a charge of robbing a Hernando Road grocer of \$2.100. Others pleading guilty and their sentences were:

Robert Johnson, larceny, six months in jail; Lewis Manning, larceny, nine months in the workhouse; Sam Johnson and Herman Bunton, housebreaking, five years in the workhouse; Manuel Lawrence, robbery, five years in the workhouse; George Hill and Douglas Prowell, housebreaking, three years in the state training and agricultural school.

Texas.

Killings-1935

(See Jones)

TEXAS COURT PULLS BRAND NEW TRICK

TEXAS COURT USES NOVELTY TO AVOID
SCOTTSBORO DECISION

Judge Says Negro Must Prove his "African Descent"
When Jury Question Is Raised

Cum gratia
308 West 14th Street

WICHITA FALLS, Texas - (CNA) - Attorneys for Luke Creear, accused of murder, are seeking to quash the indictment on the grounds of violation of the Fourteenth Amendment.

New York, N.Y. 5-11-35
Creear, a restaurant keeper, was indicted for the murder of his wife by a grand jury composed exclusively of white men.

- Must Prove African Descent -

WICHITA FALLS, Tex., (CNA)

May 17—Attorneys for Luke Creear, accused of murder, are seeking to quash the indictment on grounds of violation of the 14th amendment.

Creear, a restaurant keeper, was indicted for the murder of his wife by a grand jury composed exclusively of white men.

In an effort to defeat the move of the defense, the prosecution haled Creear into court and went through the solemn farce of making him prove his African descent. Ordinarily, when a Negro is accused of any offense in Texas, his African descent and strict punishment are taken for granted.

Although the Race constitutes at least 10 per cent of the city's population, it is rarely summoned for jury service.

There is but one school, located in the slum district, for all the Race children. Thus, in a city which boasts of its civic progress, several hundred pupils must walk from one to three miles in order to receive instruction.

Negro Executed.

HUNTSVILLE, Tex., May 14.—(P)—John Brown, a white Negro, was executed early today for slaying J. C. Haywood, who sought with other officers to arrest the killer in connection with the slaying last February of the negro's wife.

In an effort to defeat the move of the defense, the prosecution haled Creear into court and went through the solemn farce of making him prove his African descent. Ordinarily, when a Negro is accused of any offense in Texas, his African descent and strict punishment are taken for granted.

- Excluded From Jury Duty -

Although Negroes constitute at least ten per cent of the city's population, they are rarely summoned for jury service.

Dixie Justice

Afro American
FORT WORTH, Texas (CNA)—The ease with which officers bring down their prey, and on any excuse, is seen in a letter which Chief of Police A. B. McKenzie, white, of Mexia, recently sent to the police chief of Oklahoma City, in which he assured him of hearty co-operation in helping to hunt "suspects."

"We want to assure you we are doing all we can to get that 'n—' for you all. The sheriff's bunch killed a 'n—' here the other day, expecting it to be him, but it was the wrong 'n—,'" McKenzie wrote.

"He ran when they went up to the house and some of the boys stopped him and stopped him too much, so we want to assure you we are doing all we can to get him for you all."

Killings-1935.

NORFOLK, VA. LEDGER DISPATCH

SEP 26 1935

Killings in Virginia

Dr. W. A. Plecker, State Registrar of Vital Statistics, reports that Virginia is playing its full part in entitling the United States to the proud distinction of being the most lawless of all the so-called civilized nations. Dr. Plecker does not reach that conclusion; but he reports, among the facts, that in 1934 there were in Virginia 408 homicides and not one execution! In comparison with this condition, it may be considered to the high glory of Virginia that there was also not one lynching. It is fair to say, too, that two of the 1934 murderers were executed in 1935—Mais and Legenza. But it should be noted, on the other hand, that both Mais and Legenza were non-resident killers: not a single one of Virginia's own murderers who killed for money, for love, or just socially, was condemned to death by an untterrified jury of his vicinage.

It will not do to explain away this shameful record by pointing to the large Negro population of Virginia. It is true that of these 408 killers, 253 were Negroes and it is true that white jurors do a disservice to Negroes by treating more or less lightly all their crimes of violence—a fact which long has been recognized by such thoughtful leaders of the Negroes as the Norfolk Journal and Guide, for example.

If we leave the Negro killers out of consideration, we have 155 white killers in Virginia in 1934—and not an execution! Here is another and striking illustration of the same old story: Virginia joins with the other states to form the most lawless nation because Virginia joins with other states in treating murderers with sob-sister sentimentality. Virginia joins with other states in throwing a barrier about murderers and other criminals to protect them from their just deserts at the hands of society. Play-acting lawyers plead with juries to have mercy on the family of the killer, and the juries forget the cruel wrong done the family of the murdered man by the killer.

Virginia's population is about 2,500,000. Among that population, there were in the last year 408 killings. The population of metropolitan London is about 8,000,000. Among that population, in 1933 there were

only 21 murders of persons more than one year old. Why? The reason is found in the record. Of the murderers, 11 committed suicide; of the other ten, six were found guilty—and executed—three were adjudged insane, and one was acquitted.

The British have a quaint, old-fashioned idea that swift and severe punishment is the best deterrent to crime. Our practice, whether it is our theory or not, is to say to ourselves something like this: "Well, this poor murderer is rather mischievous than bad. We'll not do more to him than send him to the Penitentiary, and after a while he'll be paroled."

Of course we are the most lawless nation: it would be miraculous if we were not. Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier

September 19, 1935

Tennessee's Homicide Rate.

Tennessee has capital punishment, and advocates of that law contend that it is a deterrent to crime, but their theory does not seem to be supported by the facts as to criminal conditions in the State.

A report of the State Health Department reveals that there were 70 more homicides or murders in Tennessee in 1934 than in 1933; that there were 621 such deaths last year, representing a rate of 22.7 per 100,000 population as compared with the rate of 9.5 for the United States; that of these deaths 575 were charged entirely to Tennessee, the remainder of the victims having died in the State of wounds inflicted in other States; and that only 18 of the 95 counties escaped 1934 without a homicide.

That Tennessee has a large Negro population accounts in part for the high homicide rate, the Negro rate being 75.3 per 100,000 while the white rate was 11.2. The total rate of 22.7 was two and a half times that for the country as a whole, and the Negro rate does not explain it all. The white rate was about 2 per 100,000 above that for the country.

The general impression has been that Memphis leads perhaps all Southern cities in the matter of homicides, and it may be that that city has more murders than any other in the South, but its homicide rate is by no means the highest even of cities in Tennessee, Chattanooga led in homicides last year with a rate of 43.7, closely followed by Nashville with 40.7. Memphis was third with 37.0 and Knoxville fourth with 31.5.

The report of the State Health Department

Virginia.

is discouraging to a law-abiding public. It is discreditable to Tennessee. That the State's homicide rate last year was so much higher than that for the United States, and that there was at least one killing each in 77 of the 95

counties, seems to indicate not only that capital punishment does not have a deterrent effect but that Tennessee has a crime problem which demands attention from those in authority

RICHMOND, VA. TIMES DISPATCH

NOV 22 1935

Taking Life for Crime

JUDGE EDWARD MEEKS had no alternative but to impose the death penalty upon JOHN DAUGHTERY for his brutal murder of STATE OFFICER W. R. THOMPSON in the holdup of the Fork Union Bank in September.

We are sure that the people of Virginia will agree with the court's statement before imposing sentence: "You shot that brave officer in cold blood. There was not a scratch on you—you had opportunity to flee from the bank by the side door—but you shot him down and then pumped two more bullets in his back as he lay bleeding on the sidewalk. And if a crime like that doesn't deserve capital punishment, then I don't know what crime does."

Virginia law being what it is, JUDGE MEEKS, as we say, took what was clearly the proper course. But a serious question arises in our minds as to whether capital punishment under any circumstances is desirable. The impression prevails widely that fear of the death penalty is a great deterrent to criminals, and that if that fear were removed, serious crimes would increase rapidly. But the homicide figures in States which do not have capital punishment are much better, on the whole, than in those which do have capital punishment.

Eight of the 48 States have laws which fix life imprisonment as the maximum penalty for any crime, however heinous. These are Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The highest homicide rate in any of them for the year 1933, the latest for which complete figures are available, is the rate in Kansas, which is 8.0, while the others range between Wisconsin's 1.1 and Michigan's 3.3 per 100,000.

The lowest murder rate in any Southern State for the same year was that for South Carolina, 8.0, which is precisely the highest rate among the eight States which do not

have capital punishment. The other Southern States all have much higher rates than South Carolina, ranging upward to Alabama's 34.5. Virginia's 1933 rate was 16.3.

It will doubtless be argued that the large Negro population is chiefly responsible for the high incidence of murder in Dixie. That is certainly an important factor in the situation, but on the other hand, the white homicide rate in the South is considerably higher than it is in the rest of the country.

Even if we leave the South entirely out of account, it becomes apparent that the eight States without capital punishment (none of which is in the South), have much lower murder rates than the other non-Southern States. The average for the eight States without capital punishment is 2.7 per 100,000, while that for the 28 with capital punishment is 5.9.

It cannot be argued that the States without capital punishment are largely rural, for Rhode Island, the most thickly populated State in America, is on the list, and its murder rate is 1.7. And even if all eight were rural, that would not necessarily mean anything, since Nevada has a rate of 19.9 and Arizona has one of 19.8.

The inescapable conclusion, then, is that capital punishment is not a deterrent to crime. Equally inescapable, we think, is the conclusion that capital punishment ought therefore to be abolished. The only excuse for it in the first place was that it was presumed to reduce the number of homicides. Since it clearly does not reduce them Virginia should follow the example of more enlightened Commonwealths and provide that life imprisonment shall be the maximum penalty imposed in any of her courts. In most cases those who go to the electric chair in Virginia are guilty, but in rare cases the lives of innocent men are taken.

Let's abolish this ancient barbarity, the putting to death of human beings for crime, and confine our worst criminals for the duration of their lives. Then if after-discovered evidence demonstrates the innocence of any of them, he can be set free, and the State will not have on its head the blood of an innocent man.

HECKLERS HIT HOUSTON HERE

Disrupt Testimonial to Spingarn With Crawford Case

From behind the bars of a Virginia prison, where he is serving two consecutive life sentences for the murder of a white sportswoman and her maid, George Crawford became "Banquo's Ghost" at a testimonial dinner tendered Arthur B. Spingarn, chairman of the national legal committee of the N. A. A. C. P., at Hotel Lismore, Seventy-third street, Tuesday evening.

The Crawford case was injected into the proceedings when two white diners, one of them a member of the dinner committee, heckled Charles H. Houston, toastmaster (and former Crawford counsel for the N. A. A. C. P.), soon after he began his introductions. The hecklers revived published charges that Crawford had not been adequately defended at his trial.

"Will you not answer now the charges made by Margaret Gruening as regards the Crawford case," asked Miss Deborah Frank, who was listed as a member of the dinner committee. The man gave his name as Saul Tarson.

"Now is not the time," replied Mr. Houston.

"Why is now not the time?" the couple inquired together.

"This is Mr. Spingarn's dinner; see me afterwards and I'll be glad to answer," Mr. Houston answered.

"Are you not running away from those charges?"

Houston denied that he was running away and the questions from the interrupting couple were dealt with by boos from the 200 assembled guests. The couple left. Prof. Paul Llewellyn of the Columbia University Law School, at this point, commended Dean Houston for his handling of the Crawford case.

Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson, president of Howard University, then paid tribute to Mr. Spingarn for the encouragement which he had given to colored lawyers and to a few young Southerners to be willing to carry to the courts cases involving the citizenship rights of Negroes.

Attorney Arthur Garfield Hays who figured in the Sweet case, and William Hastie, assistant solicitor in the Department of the Interior, gave addresses, each pointing out how important is the legal work of the association and the part Mr. Spingarn has played in it.

Two-minute greetings were delivered by Mary White O'Leary, treasurer of the N. A. A. C. P.; Atty. Charles H. Studin, law partner of Mr. Spingarn; Dr. Louis T. Wright, chairman of the board, N. A. A. C. P.; Atty. Herbert K. Stockton; Nathan R. Margold, solicitor, U. S. Department of Interior; Louis Redding, only Negro lawyer in the state of Delaware; Prof. Paul Llewellyn; Walter W. and Joe E. Spingarn, brother of the guest of honor, president of the N. A. A. C. P., and for 25 years a member of its board.

In responding, Arthur B. Spingarn laid little stress on his own contributions, but praised the devotion of men like Louis Marshall and Morefield Storey, who stood the brunt of the important tests of residential segregation, the Ar' ansas riot case, and other discriminatory measures and decisions. He also made a plea for the support of the work of the organization.

"For lack of money, we have sat in the office and seen innocent Negroes jailed and even sentenced to death," he declared. "Cases come to our desks which we cannot carry out because, although we may find lawyers in the North and in the big cities who will give their services free, we must send, or pay for, counsel in the South."

HAIL! THE RICHMOND NEWS LEADER

THE RICHMOND PLANET takes this opportunity to commend the Richmond News-Leader on the manner it handled the news coverage in the case of Philip Jones who died in the electric chair at the Virginia State Penitentiary on Monday for the murder of two small children. For the first time perhaps in the history of Southern newspapers, published by white persons, the details of a crime by a Negro against white persons was not given front page publicity accompanied by glaring headlines and inflammatory photographs. On the day of the execution, one had to search through the News-Leader to find the fact that Jones had paid the penalty for his crime.

Its treatment of the news in this case was consistent with its announced policy to treat

"crime as crime, to be detected and punished as such without regard to the race or station of any culprit."

We quote from an editorial which appeared in the News Leader following the trial of Jones:

"Readers may have noticed that The News-Leader has given little prominence

to the trial of Phillip Jones at Fincastle. "This has been deliberate. The public of course, has a right to a full report of the news of the day, whether that news be pleasant or otherwise. Occasionally however, there are stories so explosive in their potentialities that it seems to us the part of good citizenship to lay no more stress upon them than is necessary for adequate public information.

"The newspaper must serve its function and must leave no room for any allegation that it is suppressing fact or glossing over crime.

Negro Is Held In Virginia Slaying LYNCHBURG, VA.

WASHINGTON, June 20.—(AP)—J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, tonight announced that Earl Conner Williams, negro, 23, had confessed to the murder of Fannie Kurz, who, with her companion, George Milton Brown, was attacked at Spotsylvania National Military Park near Fredericksburg, Va., the night of May 20, 1934.

Hoover said that Williams was arrested May 28 at Iuka, Miss., by Deputy Sheriff C. L. Pace on a charge of vagrancy and later surrendered to Federal agents as a result of a circular issued by the Justice Department.

Hoover said the negro confessed at Birmingham, Ala., and later was brought here in custody of Federal agents. Today they took the suspect to the scene of the crime "to corroborate certain details in the confession," Hoover said.

As a result, Williams will be charged with murder at Richmond, Va., Hoover said.

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ADVANCE

WHAT A RECORD!

Virginians, witnessing the gang killings that go on in Chicago and some of the other larger cities of the nation, are prone to breathe a sigh of relief that they do not live in communities where lawlessness is rampant. Unfortunately, Virginians ignore conditions right at their front door.

Dr. W. A. Plecker, State registrar of vital statistics, reports that in 1934 there were in the Old Dominion 408 homicides and not a single killer was executed for his crime. Is Chicago's record any worse comparatively speaking?

Of course, the usual answer to such a record in Virginia will be that there is a large Negro population and that most of the killings occurred among members of this race. It is quite true that the majority of homicides involved Negroes but 155 of the killers were white.

In connection with the State's discreditable record, the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch makes a very pertinent comparison with the record of London. Virginia with a population of 2,500,000 had 408 homicides last year; London with a population of approximately 8,000,000 had only 21 killings in 1933.

While Virginia had no executions we find that of the 21 London killers 6 were executed, 11 committed suicide, 3 were adjudged insane and one

was acquitted. The reason for the small amount of crime in the British city is, as our contemporary states, that "the British have a quaint, old-fashioned idea that swift and severe punishment is the best deterrent to crime."